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# Thomas A Edison Papers

## A SELECTIVE MICROFILM EDITION PART V (1911-1919)

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This letterbook covers the period August-November 1913. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Many of the items relate to the commercial and technical development of Edison's alkaline storage battery. There are also letters pertaining to his phonograph and motion picture businesses. Additional correspondence concerns an article about Edison, written and published by Elbert Hubbard in *The Fra and Phillistine Magazine*, and efforts by Mina Miller Edison to stock black bass in the creek near the family's winter home at Fort Myers, Florida. Also included are documents referring to Edison's health, the books in his library, and his summer vacation in Maine, along with reminiscences about his childhood and his career as a telegrapher.

The front cover is marked "T. A. E. From Aug. 6, 1913. To Nov. 11, 1913." The spine is marked with similar information, along with the number "34." The book contains 701 numbered pages and an index. Less than 10 percent of the book has been selected.

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First

August 6th, 1915.

Mr. E. B. Johnson,  
S. D. No. 1,  
Claremont, N. H.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 2nd instant has been referred to me. I shall ask the proper department to answer your questions in regard to the new style box-horn phonograph with concealed horn.

In regard to the making long records on strips of metal, this is a subject which has received a great deal of attention for many years past. There are a large number of patents that have been taken out, but a device of this kind has never yet been reduced to commercial practice. Something may be accomplished in this line some day.

As to making phonograph records of song birds, we have given some attention to this at odd times in the past year, but have never gotten anything to our satisfaction. We expect to try it again, however.

Yours truly,

Thomas A. Edison

First

August 6th, 1913.

Mrs. A. E. Miller,  
527 G. Street,  
Marysville, Cal.

Dear Madam:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 29th ultimo, and in reply beg to say that I do not know of anyone who manufactures the special apparatus that you mention therein. In fact, I doubt very much whether it is made up regularly for the market.

We have a special apparatus at my Laboratory here, which shows the vibration some and irregularity of the voice on a screen, but it is quite complicated and very expensive. We built it ourselves, but we are not in position to build others for the public.

Yours very truly,

Thomas G. Edison



First

August 6th, 1913.

Mr. D. K. Wilson,  
Box 484,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 31st ultimo has been received, and in reply we beg to say that we do not know where the Edison Electric Pen or supplies therefore can now be obtained. It was superseded some years ago by the Edison Mimeograph, which is made by the A. B. Dick Company, Chicago, Illinois.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

August 6th, 1913.

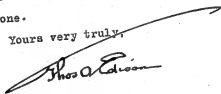
Mr. John Strongvil,  
852 E. Garfield Avenue,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 29th ultimo, and also of the copy of your little book "Your Sister's Keeper" and beg to extend my thanks to you for complimenting me therewith.

I have laid it aside to read on my vacation, if I can get one.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas A. Edison

First

August 6th, 1913.

Mr. J. B. Taltavall,  
The Telegraph and Telephone Age.,  
253 Broadway,  
New York.

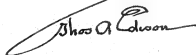
Dear Mr. Taltavall:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 31st ultimo in regard to the Annual Convention of the Old Time Telegraphers and Historical Association, and beg to assure you of my appreciation of the invitation to attend the Banquet on the 28th instant.

If I can possibly attend I shall do so with a great deal of pleasure, but I am so tied down with 5000 employees here that it is doubtful whether I shall be able to get away.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

Howard A. Edison

First

Orange, New Jersey.

August 8, 1913.

Mr. H. E. Reisman,

Fort Myers, Florida.

Dear Sir:-

Mrs. Edison has received word from the Commissioner of Fisheries at Washington, D. C., that his messenger went to your residence with information of the arrival of the black bass to stock the creek at Fort Myers; and that you refused to work with the fish at that hour of the night; and in consequence her application had been cancelled.

She feels very badly about this and would like some explanation from you.

Yours very truly,

*J. H. Edison*  
Secretary.

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August 9th, 1913.

Mr. J. Robert Crouse,  
Mela Park,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Crouse:

I received this morning the article from Elbert Hubbard and immediately showed it to Mr. Edison who looked it over, after which I sent you the following telegram, which I now confirm.

"Received Hubbard article. Showed it to Edison who says it is picturesque and poetical, but has no objection to your using it as proposed."

Yours very truly,  
J. H.

First

August 9th, 1913.

Mr. E. Hubbard,  
East Aurora,  
 Erie County,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 6th instant, enclosing the article which you wrote sometime ago about Mr. Edison and published in "The Era". Please accept my thanks therefor.

I have sent a telegram to our friend Mr. Crouse in your care this morning, and trust that he is on hand to receive it.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,



August 9th, 1913

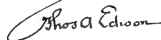
Mr. E. R. Whitney,  
% Commercial Truck Co. of America,  
27th and Brown Sts.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Whitney:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 7th instant, the contents of which have been carefully noted.

Let me say in reply that I am making a lot of tests ~~now~~ with a vehicle and separately excited field. There will be ~~no~~ extra cells. There will be 60 in all, 57 for the motor and 3 for the field, all charged in series, but discharge separately. The 57 cells are relieved of the field, the whole doing the same work. I will give you all the data of our experiments later.

Yours very truly,



*First*

August 12th, '13

Mr. George F. Morrison,  
General Electric Co.,  
Harrison, N. J.

My dear Mr. Morrison:-

I think it is best that I should write you now in regard to the matter of the invitation you kindly extended to me to attend the meeting at Association Island on one or two days in the early part of September.

I have not had a vacation for nearly two years, and since my return from Europe in the fall of 1911 I have been working steadily day and night, averaging about 18 hours a day, until I really need change and a short rest. At the time you called here, my wife, unknown to me, had engaged a cottage in Maine and had made arrangements for the family to go there for a while. They have all insisted that I also shall be with them. The plan is that I shall go on the 25th instant and return September 11th.

I really don't see how I can possibly get out of it. Beside, in justice to myself and in view of the fact that there is an enormous amount of most important work ahead of me this fall, I do not see how I can break up these few days of much needed rest, - as I certainly would have to do to be with you at Association Island. It would give me much pleasure to avail myself of the opportunity of meeting so many old friends under such favorable auspices were the conditions otherwise, and I greatly appreciate your very cordial invitation, but in the circumstances I must do the thing that is most reasonable, even though it means disappointment in another direction.

Trusting that you and your associates will fully appreciate the spirit in which I write, I remain

Yours sincerely,

*Thos A Edison*



First

August 14th, 1913

Mr. Willio H. Jones,  
Engr. Equipment Dept.,  
195 Broadway,  
New York.

Dear sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of  
the 10th instant in regard to the Phonoplex apparatus,  
and in reply I would say that so far as I know there  
is none of this apparatus working these days. I  
went out of that line a great many years ago, and I have  
no printed matter left.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

First

August 14th, 1913

Mr. Arthur Williams,  
2 The New York Edison Company,  
55 Duane Street,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Williams:-

I must ask you to kindly pardon the delay in reply to your esteemed favor of the 4th instant in which you state you have forwarded to me two books, "Thirty Years of New York." I have simply been overwhelmed with important work for Mr. Edison, which has kept me busy every minute of the time, and my correspondence has been sadly neglected.

Allow me to extend my best thanks for the two books which you have kindly sent me, and to express my appreciation of your courtesy and thoughtfulness. I regard this work as a valuable addition to my library.

Yours very truly,

*to*

*03*

First

August 15th, 1913

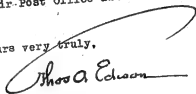
Mr. W. W. Ackerman,  
& Edwin H. Benners,  
50 Church Street, New York.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 13th instant in regard to Mr. Benners' patented steel bound concrete paving block.

I recall the visit of Mr. Benners and yourself last week and also recall seeing the sample block which was then shown me, and I beg to confirm what I said then, namely, that I thought well of the block. At that time I suggested that perhaps our Cement Works might make these blocks for Mr. Benners, and suggested that you see Mr. Mallory at our Works, the Edison Portland Cement Company, New Village, N. J. Their Post Office address is Stewartsville, N. J.

Yours very truly,

 Thomas Edison

*First*

August 15th, 1913

Mrs. Emily Surrell,  
La Mascotte,  
19 Doncaster Avenue,  
Kensington, Sydney, Australia.

Dear Madam:-

I take pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your favor of July 5th, and also of the package of very interesting photographs which you have been kind enough to send me. Allow me to thank you for them, and also to congratulate your husband upon such excellent pictures. I shall value them as an addition to the collection which I have at home.

Please also let me thank you for your kind permission to reproduce the cat and dog picture in our Phonograph Monthly. I think they will be found very interesting by the readers.

In regard to the safety seat for aerial machines, which your husband has invented, let me say that I would gladly pass an opinion upon it if I were possessed of any experience in this line. All I know about aeroplanes is from what I have read, and I do not expect to take any active interest in their exploitation.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*First*

August 15th, 1913

Mr. W. F. Siegmund,  
Detroit Electric Car Co.,  
5195 Delmar Blvd.,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Siegmund:-

Your favor of the 12th instant enclosing a newspaper clipping telling of a run made by a Detroit Electric with the Edison battery has been received, and I want to thank you for your courtesy in keeping me posted.

Let me say for your information that the battery will get better and better for three years. Should there be a drop in the mileage I would suggest that you look out for the bearings in the motor and wheels, which need attention from time to time.

Yours very truly,

*Wm A Edison*

*First*  
*20*

August 16th, 1913

Mr. D. J. Gardner  
Association Island Corporation,  
Henderson Harbor, New York.

Dear Doctor Gardner:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th instant in regard to the films which Mr. Edison has consented to loan for use during the Camp Co-Operation meeting to be held during the first week in September.

I will attend to having the films shipped so that you will have them about a week in advance of the time that you desire to use them, and presume this will give you plenty of opportunity to become familiar with them.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. Hall*  
*Wm. L. Hall*

# First

August 16th, 1913

Mr. Richard T. Perrin,  
% D. C. Brenner & Co.,  
121 So. Third Street,  
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Mr. Perrin:-

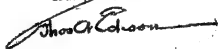
I was indeed quite surprised when I received your letter of the 3rd instant after a lapse of so many years since last we met. I have read your letter with a great deal of interest.

I remember your mother very distinctly, and also the house and the little room that I occupied. So much has transpired in my life since those early days that it is very interesting to stop for a moment and let old memories have their way. The telegraph operators in those days were certainly a queer lot of boys and I look back with a great deal of amusement upon the pranks they used to play.

I am glad to learn that the world has been fairly kind to you and trust that you may prosper during the remainder of your days. I am sorry that I have not a picture of my family at hand, but thinking that you would perhaps like one of myself will send you one by this mail.

With all good wishes, I remain

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*Private*

August 18th, 1913.

Mr. A. Brunk,  
Ewart, Michigan.

Friend Brunk:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 13th instant, enclosing a newspaper clipping which indicates that I expect to attend the meeting of the Old Time Telegraphers' Historical Association. A few weeks ago I had planned to take an automobile trip which would bring me up there in time to meet with the boys, but my family engaged a cottage up in Maine, and insisted on my going with them, so I have been obliged to give up my proposed Michigan trip.

I am glad to learn that you are still in the land of the living, and trust that all is going well with you.

Regretting that I shall be unable to have the pleasure of meeting with some of my old friends this Summer, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Thomas Edison*



*First*

August 23rd, 1913.

Mr. W. H. Miller,  
Recording Rooms,  
79 - 11th Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Miller:-

You will remember that some time ago Mr. Edison approved the Kinetophone Waltz, which was composed by Prof. Luigi Romagnoli. We sent you the music which was written in parts for the orchestra. I don't want to interfere with any of your arrangements, nor suggest anything that Mr. Edison would not approve, but when you come in again would it not be well to ask him whether you shall make a record of this, as the title is particularly appropriate these days.

Yours very truly,

*John G. ...*

*First*

August 23rd, 1913

The Survey,  
106 East 22nd St.,  
New York City.  
My dear Mr. Survey:

Excuse me:-

I received your favor of the 19th instant, on time, together with the stage proof of the various articles and illustrations in regard to Educational motion pictures. I have been extremely busy day and night this week that I have been unable to write you before.

If it is not too late there is one rather important matter that should go in some where, and that is the fact that there is to be furnished to the teachers with each one of these educational films a printed explanation, as that 75% of the time will be taken up by explanations of each section of the film. The brief explanations on the films themselves are but a small part of that which will be furnished to teachers. In addition it might be well to mention that all films will be tested on children before they are issued to the schools, so that there will be no doubt of their being understood by the pupils when they are presented as part of the study.

Yours very truly,

*Direct*

August 25th, 1913.

Mr. Francis B. Atkinson,  
 F. E. Compton & Company,  
 215 South Market Street,  
 Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Atkinson:-

Once more I must ask you to pardon the delay in replying to your recent favor. I am exceedingly busy these days.

Now to answer your questions seriatim. (1) The house, of which model is shown in library photograph is the first type of workman's house which Mr. Edison proposed to make in one piece. The moulds for this are about 60% completed, but he has been obliged to lay this project aside for the time being until he has more time to complete it. I enclose herewith a booklet about it. (2) The statue near the model house is one which Mr. Edison purchased at the Paris Exposition in 1889. It is by the Italian sculptor, Bordiga, and the title of the work is "Triumph of Electric Light over Gas." You will see that the figure is seated on a broken gas lamp. I send you a separate photograph by this mail.

In regard to the photographs of the pictures you have mentioned from the biography of Mr. Edison, published by Harper you must please bear in mind that these are copyrighted as part of the book, and I think that it would be best for you to write to Harper & Brothers first, asking their permission to use them. You can say that I suggested this and that I can furnish you with copies of the photographs so that you may reproduce them yourself. You must please bear in mind that Harper & Brothers would have to have recognition of this in your book.

I have shown Mr. Edison your letter and have spoken to him about the message, but he is unwilling to do this for many reasons which cannot well be explained.

Allow me to thank you for the copy of the new addition of the How and Why Library which you have so kindly sent me. I have taken it home and am enjoying it as often as I can get a chance to read it. I showed it to Mr. Edison and he said it was a pretty good book for home. (Please do not quote him)

Yours very truly,

*Wm. Halladay*

74  
 320

August 25th, 1913.

Mr. J. Robert Crouse,  
 Mela Park,  
 Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Crouse:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 21st instant, and beg to express my appreciation of your very kind offer to hold open the invitation to come up to the Island until I succeed in doing it. I shall make a noble effort some day.

I received the two hundred and fifty reproduced letters from Gilbert Hubbard yesterday, and spoke to Mr. Edison about them at once. He has been working all night every night this week except one, but he is carrying out his agreement to sign them and has already delivered to me a small bunch of them with his signature attached. He will undoubtedly sign the remainder of them and I will get them all off to Mr. Hubbard at the earliest possible moment. *They are sent last Saturday.* I have made all the arrangements to send a lot of films up to Dr. Gardner, and positive instructions have been issued that they shall be shipped this morning by express. In addition to the educational films, we are sending you some of the regular pictures, and Dr. Gardner will have time enough to look them all over and see what is available for your uses.

Yours very truly,

*W. B. Crouse*  
*This letter was dictated Saturday, Aug. 24, at Niagara Falls*

*Kirst*

August 25th, 1913.

Mr. W. J. Wallace Hamill,  
5 Shellock Road,  
Chiswick,  
London, W. England.

Dear Mr. Hamill:

I am in receipt of your favor informing me of the organization and objects of the West London Phonograph and Graphophone Society, all of which has had my attention. In my opinion the originator of this idea is deserving of congratulation.

You ask me if I am willing to be considered as a patron of this Society, and beg to say that it gives me much pleasure to reply in the affirmative.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

THA

*Signed after Mr. Edison  
had left for America*

*First*

August 25th, 1913.

Mr. Henry Rawle, Vice President,  
The Celluloid Company,  
290 Ferry Street,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the  
21st instant in regard to the use of poles for season-  
ing our tubes.

In reply let me say that I have tried to  
imagine why the pole scheme would take up any undue amount  
of extra space, — the poles could be placed in racks, and  
when they are in the tubes, they would not take up any  
extra space. The collapsing and indenting of the  
tubes that — are experiencing at the present time produces  
strains and is getting serious.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*First*

August 25th, 1913

Mr. M. C. Wentworth, Manager,  
Wentworth Hall and Cottages,  
Jackson, White Mountains,  
New Hampshire.

Dear Mr. Wentworth:

Allow me to thank you for your very kind favor of the 21st instant, which has been read with a great deal of interest and pleasure. It is a source of much gratification to me to learn that Mrs. Ilsen has made such a favorable impression upon you and your guests. I find this to be the universal opinion wherever she has been, and it is a source of great pleasure to me to learn that I have been so ably represented by her.

Your kind words in regard to the performance of the Diamond Disc phonograph are much appreciated. After my years of hard work to make the phonograph a more perfect musical instrument, it is indeed a recompense to learn that I have succeeded in pleasing the lovers of good music.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

W.A.

*Mr. Edison left for vacation  
of 10 days in the fall.*

*First*

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Mr. W. S. Andrews,  
General Electric Co.,  
Schenectady, N. Y.

AUGUST 26th, 1913.

My dear Mr. Andrews:

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 25th instant, and am very glad indeed to be favored with a few lines from you.

Mr. Edison was very well when he left here for Maine early on Sunday morning. His family is up there, and he has gone to join them for about ten days. He really needs and deserves a rest and change, for he has not had any vacation for about two years and has been working as hard as ever. It is really wonderful how he manages to keep at it with the same old vigor for 18 to 20 hours a day.

I remember hearing something said about a sample of calcium tungstate that he made many years ago, which was very much brighter than barium platino cyanide, but I never saw the particular sample referred to. I am very much inclined to your opinion that it was either very much better than any that has ever been made since or else that the sample of barium platino cyanide that it was compared with must have been a poor one, for I never saw any of the calcium salt which would compare with barium platino salt.

I spoke to Mr. Edison some time ago about your kind offer to come down some day and bring some liquid air with you, and he was greatly pleased at the prospect of seeing it for he has never seen it at all. He has been so fearfully busy, however, and concentrated upon the ultimate details of the disc phonograph and other things that I could not see any prospect of his being able to devote an hour or so to seeing some experiments with the liquid air. However, I hope that later on this coming fall, when we all get back from our vacations I may have the pleasure of making an appointment with you so that you can come down and have a little fun with us.

Trusting that you and Mrs. Andrews are quite well, and with kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

46 1000 15



120

August 26th, 1913.

Dr. S. M. Gardner,  
Association Island,  
Sacketts Harbor,  
New York.

Dear Dr. Gardner:-

I sent you Saturday by express, prepaid, motion picture films of the following subjects:

Microscopic Pond Life  
Crystallization  
Magnetism (four reels)  
Geopelia Moth  
Bessemer Converter  
The Doctor  
Folk Games  
Simla, India  
Famous Duel

and yesterday, by express, a film showing Effects of Electric Currents. I trust these were all safely received and found satisfactory.

These same films, or some of them, are to be used at the Edison Convention at Cooperstown, N. Y. on September 10th, on which occasion Mr. M. R. Hutchison will be present to take charge of matters in behalf of Mr. Edison.

I therefore write to ask that you will kindly ship all the above films not later than September 6th, by express, to

M. R. Hutchison,

Cooperstown, New York.

marked "Hold until called for." Will you kindly give instructions to pack the films carefully?

In order to make sure that this matter is thoroughly understood I will ask you to kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter, and oblige.

Yours very truly,

*Went*  
*3/19*

Wilson Crushing Roll Co..

Mr. E. S. Opdyke, Pur. Agt.,  
Stegonsville, New Jersey.

Aug. 27. 13.

Dear Mr. Opdyke:-

This will acknowledge receipt of your letters of recent date enclosing statements of royalty on stone crushed during July 1913, and checks which accompanied them, as follows:-

Benson Mines Co.	\$61.47
Tomkins Cove	1310.28
U. S. Crushed Stone Co.	1637.72
Kelley Island (Akron)	1528.73
Kelley Island (Marblehead & W.R.)	1371.66
Solvay Process Co.	874.92

Statement also received from the  
National Limestone Co. for July crushings.

Thanking you, I am,

Yours very truly,

Assistant Secretary.

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Mr. W. S. Andrews,  
General Electric Co.,  
Schenectady, N. Y.

Sept. 6th, 1913.

My dear Mr. Andrews:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 5th instant, and am very glad to hear from you. I think the newspaper accounts of his illness have been exaggerated, as I understand he contracted a cold, and naturally did not wish to be bothered while he was taking a little vacation. It is doubtful whether anyone will ever persuade him to take life a little easier, for I think he is incorrigible in regard to working hard all the time.

I shall take great pleasure in showing him the clipping from the Electrical World, and he will be undoubtedly glad to see that there is another one who remembers his original ideas.

Mr. Berggren has been sick and is away at Atlantic City recuperating. The last accounts I had from him a day or two ago were quite encouraging. I hope to get away for a vacation when Mr. Edison returns, which I think will be about Monday or Tuesday.

There is one thing I am going to ask of you, and trust it will not be asking too much. If it is, please be frank and say so. I am desirous of getting a few ideas about luminous paint, as I understand that you have made quite some experiments along this line. If it is not asking you to divulge something which is confidential, I should be very glad to get any formulae that you may see fit to

-2-

give me

Thanking you in advance and with kindest regards,

I remain

Yours very truly,

222  
264

190

Sept. 6th, 1913.

Mr. Thomas Graf,  
Friedrichstrasse 10,  
Berlin, Germany.

Dear Mr. Graf:

Herewith I beg to hand you two letters which have reached here, containing application for a territory for the Kinetophone. Will you kindly give these your attention.

I also hand you a lot of papers from a man by the name of August Sedlacek. This man is an inventor, who has apparently filed some competitions with the patent offices on Kinetophones. Mr. Edison does not wish to look into the matter at all, and we think it is best not to write to him direct from here, so as to give him no opportunity of saying he has had a letter from Mr. Edison. Will you please therefore reply to his letter and return his papers, stating that Mr. Edison is not interested in his patent.

Yours very truly,

*P. S. I also enclose letters from Mr. Russell & Wilson and Dr. Ross. Will you please make the appropriate replies and say you are in of Mr. Edison's request.*

*First*

Sept. 11th, 1913.

Miss Catharyne Cooke,  
% The East Side House Settlement,  
76th St. and East River,  
New York.

Dear Miss Cooke:

In reply to your favor of the 9th instant to Mr. Edison, he requests us to say that our factories are so loaded down with work as to cause a great deal of demoralization if we allow visiting parties. Therefore, for the present, Mr. Edison has been obliged to rescind the visiting privileges, and we shall not be able to arrange for the visit you mention.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*First*

SEPT. 15th, 1913.

Mr. C. F. Henderson,  
P. O. Box 1564,  
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir:-

Yours favor of the 9th instant to Mr. Edison  
sums duly to hand. As you have probably noted from the news-  
papers, he has been confined to his home with sickness during  
the last few days. Hence, I think it well to communicate  
with you at once.

You will quite readily appreciate the fact  
that many applications are made to Mr. Edison to have parties  
from various Associations visit the Laboratory and plant. He  
has replied in the affirmative to many of such applications in  
past years, but during the last twelve months he has been obliged  
to suspend the visiting privilege by reason of the serious demand  
upon the time and attention of himself and staff. When we have  
had visiting Associations here he has insisted on giving up his  
work in order to meet the members personally, which has frequent-  
ly necessitated his working late into the night to catch up.

At the present writing he is confined to the  
house by sickness, and while it is not of an alarming nature and  
he is progressing very satisfactorily, his doctor wishes him to  
remain at home all this week in order to ensure a complete re-  
covery. He is very anxious to get back to work. Even if he  
returns to the Laboratory next Monday he would naturally be  
feeling somewhat weak, and there will be an immense amount of  
delayed business of an important nature awaiting his attention,  
which will require a few days' hard work to dispose of. As  
the proposed visit of your Association would be the next day,  
the 23d, you will see it would be somewhat of a severe trial for  
him, even if it were later.

In view of the circumstances, I think it will  
be quite apparent to you that the present is not a propitious  
time for a visit of the members of your Association to the Labora-  
tory and plant. Much as I regret to announce this disappoint-  
ing news to you, I think it is best to write you frankly and lay  
the facts before you.

Yours very truly,

*J. D. Edison*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison

*First*  
*559*

Sept. 22nd, 1913.

Mr. John F. Monnot,  
 Edison Accumulators, Ltd.,  
 46 Old Bond Street,  
 London, W., England.

Dear Mr. Monnot:

Your favor of the 5th instant was received. Mr. Edison has been confined to the house for the last two weeks with sickness, and has been unable to see anyone or discuss any business matters until the last two days.

I sent your letter up at the earliest possible moment that it was permitted, and he sent word down to me to cable his consent to listing the stock if it becomes absolutely necessary. I therefore sent you the following cable:

"I consent to listing stock if it becomes absolutely necessary."

Edison."

I am able to inform you that Mr. Edison is improving rapidly and expects to be down at the Laboratory again by about next Wednesday.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Preece*



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Sept. 22nd, 1913.

Miss Helen Ormsbee,  
% The New York Edison Co.,  
55 Duane Street,  
New York.

My dear Miss Ormsbee:-

I must ask you to kindly excuse the long delay in replying to your favor of the 29th ultimo. Mr. Edison's absence has kept me exceedingly busy, and I have had no opportunity to look as fully into the matter as I desired until now.

The central stations mentioned in your letter as having been opened either in 1882 or 1883 are quite correct so far as I can check up. I have been looking among my papers in order to see if I could supply you with the figures showing the number of lamps and capitalization of moneys invested in these stations, but I am unable to find anything reliable.

In the early days there were bulletins issued, beginning in 1882. From that year until 1885 they were issued by Major Eaton, but a new series was issued later by Mr. M. H. Johnson. If neither Mr. Keeth nor Mr. Williams should happen to have a set of these bulletins, I am quite sure you will find a set of each of them in the Office of Mr. W. H. Langman, 165 Broadway. I have already examined the set of Major Eaton's bulletins, which by the way I used to help prepare, but do not find in them the information that you desire.

If you cannot obtain the information you want from the above sources, the only other sources that I can think of are the "Minute Book" of the Edison Electric Light Company, now in possession of the General Electric Co., and the "Archives" of the central station companies mentioned.

Regretting that I cannot furnish you with more specific information, I remain

Yours very truly,

30

Sept. 22nd, 1913.

of. Luigi Romano.  
ation A, Box 23,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 15th instant, and am very glad to inform you in reply that Mr. Edison is making very favorable progress towards recovery, and we expect that he will come down to the Laboratory some time next week.

In regard to your Kinetophone Waltz, I simply want to repeat what I have written you before, namely, that it was sent over to our Recording Rooms and is put on the list there for recording. As I told you, they have a large quantity of music to record, and the Kinetophone Waltz will have to take its place and be recorded in its turn.

Yours very truly,

*First*

Sept. 24th, 1913

Mr. A. W. Leonard,

% Stone &amp; Webster Management Assoc.,

147 Milk Street, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Leonard:-

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. J. K. Hill, stating that you are at the present time in Boston and expect to run over to New York for a day and that you would like to run out to the Laboratory and meet Mr. Edison.

Fortunately, it happens that Mr. Edison has just returned to the Laboratory after his illness. He is down for a few hours today, and we expect him here every day from now on. He says that he will be glad to see you if you are coming on to New York and will run over to Orange.

Any day this week (except Saturday afternoon) or any day next week will be quite satisfactory to him. Will you kindly drop me a line and let me know when you expect to come over, and I would suggest that when you get to New York you telephone over to me (908 Orange) and state what time you would expect to be out here, so that we may make sure that Mr. Edison will be on hand to meet you.

You come out to Orange by the Lackawanna Railroad, get off at the Orange station, walk a block up to the main street, take a trolley going to West Orange, and it will let you off right at the Laboratory.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

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610

Sept. 25th, 1919

Mrs. Mary A. Matthews,

A.E. #2, Box 161,

Kelly station, Pa.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 18th instant to Mr.

Edison was received. Mr. Edison has been absent from the Laboratory for more than two weeks on account of sickness, but will be here this week. Of course, you can well understand that there will be a large accumulation of business waiting for his attention, but as soon as we can get to it we will call his attention to your song and ask him whether or not he will want to use it.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*First*  
*546*

Sept. 25th, 1913

Mr. J. Bergmann,  
23 Quedenauer Street,  
Berlin, Germany.

Dear Bergmann:-

Headweroft told me that you wanted me to take a look at the bill which had been rendered by the Storage Battery Company for the Iron Loading machines, the 6 moulds and some small accessories. He said that you thought it was very high indeed and wanted me to look at it so that I could see if some reduction could be made.

Let me say in explanation that the bill is all right, as the few iron loading machines we use have always been made at the Laboratory by tool makers, and they cost more than if a number of them were being made. There were too few of them required to have them done outside with jigs and tools. You will quite understand the high cost from this explanation.

I am just back at the Laboratory after more than two weeks confinement in the house with sickness. I am feeling all right again now.

Yours very truly,

*First*  
1059

Sept. 29th, 1913.

Mr. T. B. Clarke  
 % The Lackawanna R.R. Co.  
 Scranton, Pa.

My dear Mr. Clarke:

I suppose you will be very glad to learn that Mr. Edison is feeling all right again and is back at the Laboratory. Just at present he does not spend a full day here, but gets around about 9:30 and leaves about 5:00. With him this is just mere child's play, but we all hope that he will not get back to his old habit of burning the midnight oil. You never can tell, for he is incorrigible when it comes to work.

Mrs. Edison is keeping pretty close watch on him just now. He looks very well and has made a good recovery.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. G.*

First

Sept. 20th, 1915.

Mr. Henry M. Farnam,  
325 Andrew Bldg.,  
Minneapolis,  
Minn.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 22nd ultimo reached me on my return to the Laboratory after more than a month's absence. Let me say in reply to your question that the whole scheme was abandoned, as the people who owned the grant made false representations and I quit. We had not got as far as the special machinery up to that time.

Yours very truly,

*Theodore D. Wilson*

356

Sept. 30th, 1913.

Mr. J. B. Ballantine,  
% Clifford Exploration Company,  
Georgetown, Colorado.

My dear Mr. Ballantine:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 22nd instant, and am glad to hear from you. Mr. Edison came down a few days ago for the first time since he left here August 25th. He has been quite sick, but has now recovered. He comes down about 9:30 and goes away again before 5:00 o'clock. His wife is looking out for that. She brings him down and comes for him in the evening. No night work just now.

I had to wait until he came back before I could go away, and then after he had been here two or three days I fell sick with a very bad cold, and am just going to close up my matters to-day and go for a vacation, commencing to-morrow.

I think it is very wise of you to keep us posted as to just what progress you are making out there, so that makes a record which we keep on file. I have shown your letter to Mr. Edison and he has noted its contents with satisfaction.

Trusting that you are well and that you will make good progress, I remain

Yours very truly,

Very truly,  
J. B. Ballantine



216

Sept, 28th, 1915

Mr. J. M. Hill,  
 24 Puget Sound Traction, Light & Power Co.,  
 204 Pioneer Building,  
 Seattle, Washington.

Dear Mr. Hill:

I received your esteemed favor of the 22nd instant relating to motion pictures, about which we have had previous correspondence.

Let me say for your information that Mr. Wilson does not consider himself far enough along in his strictly educational school films to take up these large subjects, and he is no where near ready to consider them in relation to that special branch of the motion picture business.

He therefore looks upon all these questions in their relation to the regular motion picture business, which is worked through the film exchanges in the regular way. I showed him your letter, and this is a copy of his comments upon it:

"Industrial pictures are not acceptable to the trade, and we have always failed to get even the smallest percentage of our costs back".

you will see therefore that he is not favorably inclined towards making the pictures that you mention.

I am glad to say that Mr. Wilson is down to the Laboratory every day and feeling very well. He comes down only about 9:30 and goes away again by 5:00 o'clock. The doctor particularly requested him to take it easy for a week or two, and we are all very glad that this time he is disposed to take the advice of the doctor.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

322

Sept. 30th, 1913.

Proudfoot's Commercial Agency.

149 Broadway.

New York City.

Dear Mr. Proudfoot:

I send you herewith some papers relating to the Anti-Cigarette League of America. Will you kindly give me a report on this and oblige

Yours very truly,

*Th.*

Vincent  
122

Sept. 30th, 1913.

Mr. C. E. Speirs,  
J. D. Van Nostrand Company,  
Twenty-Five Park Place,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Speirs:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 25th instant, and also copy of Prof. Jones' book "New Era in Chemistry", which you have kindly sent for Mr. Edison. I handed it to him this morning and I suppose there is no need to tell you that he went to work on it right away. Anything in Chemistry is sufficient to attract his attention immediately. He is very pleased with your thoughtfulness, and wishes me to extend his thanks to you for your courtesy in sending him this book.

I am glad to say that he is feeling well again and is able to come down to the Laboratory every day. There is no more burning of the midnight oil just now, but you can never tell.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*First*

Sept. 30th, 1913

Mrs. J. W. Freeland,  
874 Mt. Vernon Avenue,  
Marion, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Freeland:

I was away from my Laboratory more than a month, being confined to the house by illness for over two weeks of that time. On returning to work I find your kind letter and the verses you wrote at the little Mount Clemens office.

Modesty forbids any comment from me in regard to your verses. All I can do is to acknowledge their receipt and also to express my appreciation of the very kind thoughts of me which you and my old friends shared on the occasion of your recent visit to the well remembered scenes of my youth.

Yours very truly,

*Shoemaker*

Kirst

Sept. 30th, 1913

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that Mr. H. W. Lancaster  
was employed in my Laboratory for over six years in  
various kinds of experimental work. He always perform-  
ed his duties in a satisfactory manner.

Thos A Edison

369  
480

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Oct. 6th, 1913

Mr. D. J. Van Marle,  
166 Remsen Street,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to yours of the 50th ult..

Mr. Edison directs me to write you that he can give you  
some research work at the salary you name, but cannot say  
how long the work will last. Probably all Winter or  
longer however.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

First  
467

October 9, 1913.

To Whom It May Concern:-

This is to certify that

Mr. Allen Hinchcliff was employed in the machine  
shop of this Laboratory during his summer vacation.  
His services while here were entirely satisfactory  
and he left of his own accord to complete his  
college training.

Paymaster.

466

October 9, 1913.

Mr. Allan Hincholiff,  
218 Lewis Avenue,  
Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 5th instant asking for a reference while in our employ. beg to say that while you were here Mr. Clancy informs me that you only operated a lathe; that he had never tried you on the other machines. Your services on the lathe however were satisfactory and I am enclosing a reference which I hope will help you get the position you desire.

Yours very truly,

Paymaster.



*Kirst*

Oct. 6th, 1913.

Mr. W. P. Mosher,  
% The Evening Mail,  
Broadway & Fulton st.,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to yours of the 22nd ult.  
regarding the copy of the New York Daily Graphic of April  
2nd, 1878 which you sent me under separate cover. This  
was received and found very interesting indeed.

Thanking you for your thoughtfulness  
in sending it, I am

Yours very truly,

*Theodore Edison*

*First*

October 11, 13.

John H. Wood, Esq.,

156 Broadway,

New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison does not care to carry insurance any longer on the buildings at Menlo Park. Will you please cancel all policies and send credit memo for any rebate.

Yours very truly,

*J. H. Wood*  
Secretary.

*First*

October 16, 1913.

Mr. Wm. J. Hammer,  
153 West 46th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Hammer:-

Allow me to thank you for your favor  
of the 8th instant and also for the framed set of  
photographs of "The William J. Hammer Historical  
Collection of Incandescent Electric Lamps". I  
shall accept these photographs with pleasure, and  
will have them hung in my library here.

After all the years you have spent  
on this Collection, you are to be congratulated on  
the completion of your labors in the final setting up  
and arranging of the same in its permanent home.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

*First*

Oct. 20th, 1913

Mr. C. F. Alben,  
635 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours of the 10th instant regarding Prof. Becernys's advertisement, Mr. Edison directs me to write you that all he knows of Mr. Becernys is that he came to the Laboratory and Mr. Edison showed him some scientific results from records of different singers. He has a very even voice, but as to his methods Mr. Edison knows nothing about them.

Yours very truly,

  
Secretary.

*First*

518

Oct. 20th, 1913.

Mr. Leland Hume,  
4 Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Co.,  
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to yours of the 9th inst.  
regarding an old style Graphophone, Mr. Edison directs me  
to write you that he had a number of these old machines  
but they were all destroyed. He thinks perhaps Alexander  
Bell at Washington could tell you where you could get one.  
He never made that type of machine.

Yours very truly,

*H. S. Allen*  
Secretary.

First

Oct. 20th, 1913.

The Philadelphia Medical Publishing Co.,  
302 N. Broad Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

Replying to yours of the 11th  
inst., Mr. Edison directs me to write you to cancel his  
subscription to the "American Journal of Gastro-Entero-  
logy" as he does not want it any more.

Yours very truly,

*J. J. Hill*  
Secretary.



Oct. 21. 1913.

James Oliver, Esq.,  
123, Harley St., W.,  
London, England.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 9th instant received.

It was understood that I was to design the plant, but unknown to me Mr. Lawrence hired my chief draftsman and took him to England. This man was an Englishman who committed suicide after the mill failed to work.

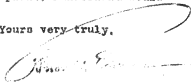
During the time he was designing it a few drawings were sent over for my approval. These were returned with changes, but many I believe were not carried out.

I was told by one of the persons interested in the Dunderland Company that Mr. Simpkin was sent to America at one time with a large number of drawings. He came to the Laboratory but never exhibited any of them.

I have always been astonished that they should not have taken advantage of the great experience I had in this line, attained at a great cost, and which I was anxious to give free of expense. The large Cement works which I designed, with the same kind of machinery and a far harder problem, has been working now for many years without a hitch.

I feel sure that if Mr. Lawrence had not interfered and permitted me to design the whole plant, Dunderland would have been a very successful company.

Yours very truly,



First

October 27, 1913.

General Electric Co.,  
Francis C. Pratt, Esq.,  
Assistant to President,  
Schenectady, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 23rd instant regarding SILICON steel received. The message was not correctly transcribed, it should have read---

"Please ship three hundred pounds nine thousandths thick".

Mr. Edison wants to use the steel in motors, these have a very high speed, therefore want the sheets thin as possible. The manufacturers say they roll this nine thousandths of an inch thick. He understands this steel gives more magnetism before saturation occurs, than the ordinary steel.

If you have any of the thin stock he would like to have one hundred pounds by express (Wells Fargo) and the balance, two hundred pounds, by Lackawanna freight direct to Orange, New Jersey.

If you have none so thin in stock, could you order some from the makers.

Your urgent attention in the matter will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Miller*  
Secretary.



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October 27, 1913.

Mr. Samuel Gardner,  
1055 Tiffany Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of recent date Mr. Edison directs me to write you to select a big lot of VIOLIN pieces, not usually played by Spalding and he will select six. After you have played them for him you can make them on the disc.

Yours very truly,

  
Secretary.

First

October 27, 1913.

Mr. John Howell,  
General Electric Co.,  
Harrison, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison would like to know if you have  
made any of the Nitrogen lamps with carbon filaments  
instead of Tungsten.

An early reply will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

308 Oct. 27-1913.

Monnot 643

You assured me that

it was not to be brought out  
publicly but privately subscribed.  
How is this.

Edison  
sent clipping

Original sent (same pad) with clipping  
from Daily Mail & Monday Oct 13-1913.  
Jum

October 20, 1913

Deutsche Edison-Kumulatoren-Gesellschaft, G.m.b.H.,  
 Drenthelersstr. 85-86,  
 Berlin, Germany.

Gentlemen:-

Your letter of the 18th inst. with enclosure has been received. I return herewith my copy of the agreement duly executed by me. In accordance with your request the agreement has been dated January 1, 1914. The list of patents cited is complete as far as the records of my legal department show. If, however, I have other German, Austrian or Hungarian patents relating solely to storage batteries which have been kept alive and are not included in the said list, - am willing to include these and will do so in a separate letter. In the meantime I await further information from you on this point.

With regard to the word "manufactured" used in clauses 5 and 6 of the agreement, my position is that I am entitled to royalties on all cells manufactured during the life of the agreement and not merely on those actually sold, inasmuch as I might otherwise be deprived of royalties to which I am entitled by the rental or other disposition of the cells. I will, however, not require you to pay royalty on any cell prior to its shipment from your factory, this concession being made without prejudice to my right to receive a minimum royalty of Sixty Thousand Marks during each year of the

-2-

agreement. Kindly advise me if this concession is satisfactory to you. Otherwise than as herein mentioned, I do not consent to any modification or alteration of the agreement, and do not agree to your interpretation of the same as set forth in your said letter of the 18th inst.

Very truly yours,

First

Nov. 4th, 1913.

Society for Electrical Development, Inc.,  
New York.


Gentlemen:

I have been greatly interested in perusing the pamphlet dealing with the principles, plans, and methods of membership of your Society, and am much impressed with the wisdom displayed in its conception.

It is indeed remarkable that, in a business of such phenomenal growth and having such keenly competitive interests, there could be evolved a plan sufficiently comprehensive to at once bring about an incalculable increase of business to the good of all concerned while not in the least disturbing the benefits of proper competition.

If the objects of your Society are carried out as now proposed I think the next few years will show an enormous advance in the use of electrical devices.

Yours very truly,

Thomas Edison

First

Nov. 5th, 1913.

Mr. John W. Howell,  
General Electric Company,  
Harrison, N. J.

My dear Mr. Howell:

I have just returned from my vacation and Mr. Edison has handed me your favor to him of the 28th ult. in regard to making some lamps with carbon filament in nitrogen. Of course, he quite appreciates the reasons why you do not think you would get any benefit from nitrogen in the carbon lamps, but he is very much interested to see what results you do get.

He has asked me to keep track of the matter so I suppose you will not mind if I ask you once in awhile whether you have made any of the lamps.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

W. H. Edwards

First

Nov. 8th, 1913.

Mr. L. H. Latimer,  
#64 Holley St.,  
Flushing, N. Y.

Dear Brother Latimer:-

I received your kind favor of the 19th ultimo while I was still down in Atlantic City on my vacation and in the hunt for better health. I am glad to say that I found it and am feeling several hundred percent better than when I went away. I didn't answer your letter before this, as I was prohibited from doing much letter writing. Hence, I shall ask you to accept my apology for the delay in acknowledging receipt of your kind letter.

It is my earnest hope that you have been able to make some arrangements with Mr. Flimpton in regard to your play. It is quite unnecessary to say that I did the utmost that I could for you. Our people up there have their own standards, and no one from here ever interferes with them or doubts their capacity to pass upon material which they themselves have to handle. If the matter should not go as you wish, do not be discouraged but try again.

I am sincerely obliged to you for all your good wishes and good thoughts about me, which needless to say are very heartily reciprocated on my part. Trusting that the passing years are touching you very lightly and with kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Mason*



First

Nov. 5th, 1913.

Mrs. ANDREW E. Ziegler,  
Metropolitan Opera House,  
1425 Broadway, New York.

Dear Madam Ziegler:-

I have just returned from my vacation and find your favor written a few days ago. I have asked Mr. Edison in regard to bringing over Miss Love and Miss Maquire.

Just now he is very busy indeed with a series of experiments that he cannot leave, and he is not making any appointments while he is so busily engaged. He requests me to say that as soon as he is through with these experiments, he will be ready to hear the two young ladies. It is not possible to set any date just now, as it might be a week or two weeks or even more before he is through, but as soon as he is ready I will communicate with you again.

Yours very truly,

*Edison*

First

Nov. 6th, 1913.

Mr. J. D. Lyon, President,  
Lee County Realty and Investment Co.,  
Fort Myers, Florida.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 27th ultimo, concerning a tract of land which your Company is about to develop for residential purposes, and asking my consent to your naming it "Bison Park."

Allow me to say in reply that I cannot consent to your so naming it as my wife and family have objections to the use of my name in connection with enterprises that do not relate to my business affairs or affiliated therewith.

Yours very truly,

*Wm A. Edson*

6614

~~RECEIVED~~

Nov. 6th, 1913.

Mr. H. G. Plimpton,  
Edison Studio,  
2826 Decatur Avenue,  
Bedford Park, New York City.

Dear Mr. Plimpton:

Enclosed herewith I beg to hand you a letter from a Mr. Edwin Mitchell of Los Angeles, Cal., to which is attached an article from "Sunset" written by this gentleman. You will see that at the end of his letter Mr. Mitchell states that he is probably coming to New York before long and would like to have the opportunity of looking through our motion picture factory. I presume by this that he means the Studio. You will note that Mr. Edison has marked O. K. on this, but before writing Mr. Mitchell I am sending this note to you to see if you know of any objections to this proposed visit.

Will you kindly return Mr. Mitchell's letter with

your reply?

Yours very truly,

*H. G. Plimpton*

First

Nov. 6th, 1913.

Mr. F. G. Taubin,  
1904 West 8th Street,  
Spokane, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th instant, and have noted with much interest your suggestion of a loud playing phonograph, to be used in motion picture theatres to furnish music instead of the customary piano. There would be no trouble at all in making a very loud phonograph, but I do not think the motion picture theatres would use it because the pianist is supposed to play music as nearly appropriate to the subject that is at the moment being shown as possible, and, as you know, motion pictures make very rapid changes in the emotions that are depicted.

In regard to making a record of my own voice, let me say for your information that according to my contract arrangement with the Company this cannot be done for reasons of business policy.

Thanking you for your kind words and wishes, I

remain

Yours very truly,

*First*

Nov. 6th, 1913.

Mr. F. J. Scherrer,  
1929 No. 88 Church St.,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Scherrer:-

I have been so exceedingly busy the last two or three weeks that I have not had time before to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 16th ultimo, and of the photographs of the old Grand Trunk Depot, Mt. Clemens, Mich. and of Col. Wilson sitting at the telegraph desk in the Depot in the act of sending a message to me.

The photographs came safely to hand, and I am very glad indeed to have them. Allow me to thank you very much for your kindness in remembering me with these copies. I am looking forward to the receipt of the proceedings of the convention, which I have no doubt will be very interesting reading.

Yours very truly,



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Nov. 10th, 1913.

T. E. Clarke, Esq.,  
D. & W. R. R. Co.,  
Scranton, Pa.

My dear Mr. Clarke:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 7th instant, enclosing the clipping in regard to Mr. Edison and his "boss", and have read it with much interest. I have also learned from the other paragraph which you marked that it is well not to talk too much. That ~~was~~ certainly a very funny story.

I have laid the matter on Mr. Edison's desk, and I think that he will take it up home and show it to his "manager".

I am glad to say that he has recovered from his illness and is working right straight along. He is not allowed, however, to do any all night stunts at present, and I hope that the future occasions of such will be limited in number.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*T. E. Clarke*

First

Nov. 7th, 1913

Mr. Charles H. Prouty,  
% Isaac Prouty & Co.,  
Spencer, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

There has been some delay in replying to your letter, but that has been occasioned by my having been so very busy on some important experiments that could not be put aside.

Your letter and a copy of your communication to the newspapers were both read by me with a great deal of interest. I am glad to learn that you approve of the views set forth in the articles published in "The Survey", and I think that your opinions in regard to the proper training of children are based upon good sound common sense.

Thanking you for your letter and the interest manifested by you, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Frederick A. Stearns*

First

Nov. 11th, 1913.

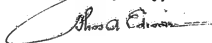
His Excellency,  
Guillermo E. Billinghurst,  
Lima, Peru.

My dear Sir:-

The receipt of your telegram afforded me a great deal of pleasure. I am sincerely glad to learn that you liked the Kinetophone, even as it is at the present time. We are working to improve and refine it, and I think that in time we shall be able to enlarge the scope of our operations.

With many thanks for your kind congratulations, I remain

Yours very truly,

 Thomas A. Edison



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Nov. 11th, 1913.

Mr. W. S. Mallory,  
Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
Stewartsville, N. J.

My dear Mr. Mallory:-

Of course, you remember Mr. Holderness, who used to do our sculpture and cement-casting work here. As you are aware, Mr. Edison let him go some months since, and he has a little place of his own just below here. He has made arrangements with somebody who has been furnishing him with a little money, and now he claims to have something that is of great value in the building line. He claims it would help Mr. Edison out with the poured cement house, and would also be of great value in other directions for building and putting up cement houses.

He is very anxious indeed to see you and have you look into what he has got in this line, as he thinks that you would be very greatly interested in it. He wanted to bring it to Mr. Edison's attention, but I said that it would be useless to try and get Mr. Edison's attention direct to the matter, but that when you came down next time to Orange, you would probably go down to his place (which is just a few blocks from here), and then if his ideas appear valuable to you, they could be explained by you to Mr. Edison. I think this is a much better way to handle it, if, indeed, it is not the only feasible way.

As you know, Holderness is a very practical man in his particular line, and he is so absolutely certain that he has gotten something very valuable, that it seems to me it would probably be worth your while to investigate it.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

First

Nov. 11th, 1913.

Mr. Edmund Mitchell,  
2282 Cambridge Street,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Edison, enclosing an article from the November issue of "Sunset Magazine", came duly to hand.

Mr. Edison is exceedingly busy just now on a special line of experiments which he cannot very well leave, and which has been engrossing his entire time and attention the last two or three weeks. He therefore requests me to write to you and acknowledge receipt of your favor and to thank you for your kind interest in sending him the extract from the Sunset Magazine, which he has read with much interest.

In regard to your wish to visit our motion picture factory, he assumes that you mean the Studio where the pictures are made and all the technical work of producing motion pictures is done. He wishes me to say in regard thereto that he will be very glad to have you make a visit to our Studio in the Bronx, New York City. I have written to Mr. Horace G. Flimpton, the Manager there, and he also supplements Mr. Edison's invitation to pay a visit to the Studio. He says that if it is convenient for you to drop him a line a day or two in advance he would be glad of it and would also be pleased to have you take lunch with him. You can address Mr. Flimpton at the Edison Studio, 2825 Decatur Ave., Bedford Park, New York City.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

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Nov. 11th, 1913.

Mr. Max Thompson,  
% Hotel Astor,  
Times Square, New York.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Your favor of the 7th instant to Mr. Miller has been received and shown to Mr. Eison. He says that he will be glad to have Prof. Uribe come over on Thursday or Friday of this week, if convenient. He may come either between 10:00 and 12:00 o'clock in the morning or between 2:00 and 3:30 in the afternoon. Please tell him to ask for me at the Gate House, and I will ~~see~~ <sup>show</sup> to the rest. *Please telephone my office.*

If neither of those days should happen to be convenient to him, please advise me and we will arrange another day.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Miller*  
Assistant to Mr. Eison.

First

Nov. 11th, 1913.

Mr. W. J. Davison,  
Grand Northern R.R. Co.,  
Ballard, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

I have been agreeably surprised by the receipt of your favor of the 3d instant and the photograph of my home in Kewelllyn Park.

~~This~~ is, indeed, an exceptionally fine picture, and I want to thank you for it, as well as for your kindness in complimenting me therewith.

My family suggests that perhaps you might like ~~me~~ of my photographs, so I shall take pleasure in sending one to you.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison  
Edison

**General Letterbook Series  
Letterbook, LB-096 (1913-1914)**

This letterbook covers the period November 1913-February 1914. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included are letters addressed to telephone and utilities executive Theodore N. Vail and to automobile manufacturer Henry Ford. Several documents concern the commercial and technical development of Edison's alkaline storage battery in the United States and Europe. There are also letters pertaining to public demonstrations of Edison's disc phonograph and to technical developments related to the kinetophone, Edison's system for talking motion pictures. Additional correspondence relates to Edison's health, book acquisitions, and vacations with his family; visitors to the West Orange laboratory; and the disposal of land in Ogden, New Jersey, formerly used by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Concentrating Works.

The front cover is marked "T. A. E. From, Nov. 13, 1913. To Feb. 14, 1914." The spine is marked with similar information, along with the number "35." The book contains 697 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 15 percent of the book has been selected.

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*Frank*  
*266*

Nov. 13th, 1913.

The Casein Manufacturing Co.,  
Hanover Bank Building,  
Pine & Nassau Sts.,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 10th instant has been received and Mr. Edison requests us to say in reply that he is experimenting with Casein to see if he can use it in certain processes as a substitute for another material. He is not quite ready to place any order as yet until he has ascertained that it is suitable for his purpose.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

Nov. 18th, 1913.

Mrs. Richard Percival Evans,  
5016 Sheridan Road,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mrs. Evans:-

Mr. Edison has received a letter from Mrs. Walter G. May, calling attention to your voice and musical ability, and suggesting that you expect to visit New York and would like to go to our Laboratory and make a trial record there. Mr. Edison desires me to inform you that if you expect in any event to visit New York he will be very glad to have you make a trial record, which would be sent over to him for his hearing.

Our Recording Rooms are in New York City at 279 Fifth Avenue, and the Manager is Mr. W. H. Miller, to whom I have written today telling him about you and advising him that you will probably write and make an appointment for taking a record when you visit New York City.

I presume it is unnecessary for me to say that when we make trial records in this way we do not pay the expenses of the artists. I merely make mention of this as to avoid any misunderstanding in the matter.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.



First

Nov. 13th, 1913.

Mrs. Walter G. May,  
5123 Sheridan Road,  
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Mrs. May:-

Mr. Edison received your letter in regard to Mrs. Evans, and desires me to say that he would very much like to hear a trial record of her voice. Mr. Edison's requirements in regard to voices for his phonograph are somewhat distinctive and unusual, as you may probably have heard.

He has asked me to write to Mrs. Evans stating that if she is going to New York in any event, he would be glad to have her make an appointment with the Manager of our Recording Rooms in that City, and to make a trial record which would be sent over here for Mr. Edison's own hearing. I am therefore writing to her today to this effect.

I presume it is unnecessary to say that when singers come to our Rooms to make a trial record we do not pay their traveling expenses. I merely mention this to avoid any misunderstanding.

Yours very truly,

*W. D.*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*First*

Nov. 14th, 1913.

Mr. Wm. K-L. Dickson,  
4, Denman Street,  
Piccadilly Circus,  
London, W., England.

My dear Mr. Dickson:-

Your favor of the 4th instant to Mr. Edison was received and placed before him.

He wants me to tell you in reply that the newspaper reports are not true. He is not broken down from over work. The facts are as follows: His wife and family went to Maine in the early part of August this year, and he arranged to join them at the end of the month for a short vacation of two weeks. He worked very hard day and night all through the month, and had been working day and night for many months previous to this time. He went up to Maine in the automobile, and towards the end of his stay contracted a very severe cold, which on his return Sept. 6th, necessitated his staying in the house for about two weeks. As some complications of digestion, etc. had set in. In due time, however, he returned to the Laboratory and is working here every day until about 11 o'clock at night. These are the facts.

I trust that you are enjoying good health and that everything is going along swimmingly with you.

With kindest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely,

*Wm. K-L. Dickson*

First

Nov. 14th, 1913.

Dr. Oscar Von Miller,  
Deutsches Museum,  
Zweibrückenstrasse, 12,  
Munich, Germany.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison has been so exceedingly busy day and night for the last two or three years in completing his disc phonograph that it has been necessary to have some affairs remain in abeyance temporarily. Among these was the fulfillment of his promise made to you the day you visited the Laboratory and took luncheon with him.

His mind has been so occupied with a multitude of questions that he has only a general, but not a definite, idea of what he promised to you. Beside, as you have probably learned from the newspapers, he has had an attack of illness which confined him to the house for some little time. He therefore suggested that I write to you and ask you to refresh his memory as to the particular promise he made.

Of course, he remembers very well that he promised some of his models for your Museum, but just in what particular line and to what extent he does not recall at this time. I think he said to you in speaking of this subject that a great many of his models and machines were scattered, as he had given many away in former years.

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Nov. 18th, 1913

Mr. W. R. Preston,  
Oceanic House,  
1 A Cookspur Street,  
London, S. W. England.

Dear Mr. Preston:-

Your favor of the 29th ultimo was received and its contents carefully noted. I have been exceedingly busy, hence the short delay in reply.

The contract we made with Mr. Monnot and his Company gives them the right for the sale and use of the Storage Batteries in the British Isles only. This, therefore, gives them no right to sell batteries to you when they are to be used outside the British Isles. Hence, I sent you the following cable yesterday, which is now confirmed:

"Monnot has no right under contract to sell batteries for use outside British Isles. This in reference to second paragraph your letter 29th ultimo. Letter follows."

I have no desire to suggest or interfere in any way in regard to the terms and conditions under which Mr. Monnot and his Company are willing to grant to your Company the right to use the batteries for train lighting in the British Isles, and therefore I refrain from offering any comments in connection therewith.

As to the remainder of the world, excepting Germany, Austria, Hungary, and North America, we have expressed our willingness to enter into a contract with your Company as outlined in our letters of the 9th ultimo, and I presume this proposed arrangement is still under consideration.

Let me add that there will be no conflict as to territorial rights if batteries intended for use outside the British Isles and other restricted territory are shipped from here.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. a. Edison*

*Kirst*

Nov. 14th, 1913.

Mr. John B. Miller, President,  
Southern California Edison Co.,  
Edison Building,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Mr. Miller:-

I have received your favor of the 6th instant, which I have read with much interest. I am glad to learn that your father and mother are enjoying good health, and especially to learn that your father feels well enough to feel the necessity of congenial employment.

In accordance with your request I am sending you two of my photographs, and trust that they will reach you in safety.

With kind regards to you all, I

remain

Yours very truly,

*Charles E. Miller*

P.S. please send photo of your father.

*Chas. E. Miller*

*Emerson*

Nov. 18th, 1913

Mrs. Robert A. Miller.  
17 West 45th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mrs. Miller:-

Mrs. Edison has requested me to write to you in regard to the proper course to be followed in having a voice tried to see whether it is satisfactory for the purpose of making phonograph records. I would say in regard to this that usually Mr. Edison desires to hear all voices himself, and in that case the persons come out here to the Laboratory after making an appointment through me. He is very busy, however, at the present time, and has been so much occupied with an accumulation of business matters and experimental work since his illness, that he has not heard any voices for some six or eight weeks. We have a number of singers who are waiting to come out here to be heard, but no appointments will be made for the next two or three weeks.

Mrs. Edison stated that the singer you had in mind was in Chicago. We had a letter from a lady a few days ago asking for an opportunity for a Chicago singer to be heard and to make a trial record. I wonder whether it is the same one that you may have reference to. This singer was a Mrs. Walter May. Our correspondence stated that Mrs. May was coming to New York anyway. Hence, I followed the course that we sometimes pursue when it is not convenient to have the singer to come out to the Laboratory. I wrote that if she were coming to New York she could go to the Recording Rooms, 279 Fifth Avenue, and that they would take a trial record of her voice there. We always state to those who come to make voice trials, in order to avoid any misunderstanding, that we do not pay any expenses of the singer in connection therewith.

If you can let me know a little more definitely about the singer you have in mind, perhaps we can make some definite arrangements.

Yours very truly,

ASST. TO MR. EDISON.

*first*

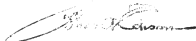
Nov. 14th, 1913.

Mr. Wm. D. Sloane,  
2 West Fifty-Second St.,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Sloane:-

I received your favor of the 10th instant in regard to the Edison Storage Battery affair. In reply let me say that we have been making about \$30,000 per month, but all profits have been put back into the business. I rather doubt that we shall maintain this record this month as orders are very slow. The same condition affects all Storage Battery companies.

Yours very truly,



First

Nov. 19th, 1913.

Miss Isabel Thorpe,  
453 West 155th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Miss Thorpe:-

Your favor of September 9th to Mr. Edison was received during the time that he was confined to his house by illness. Since he returned to the Laboratory he has been exceedingly busy and has only recently had time to hear the record of the Manhattan Ladies Quartett. His comment upon it was to the effect that it was not available for our use.

Yours truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Edison



*First*  
*574*

Nov. 21st, 1913.

Dr. A. E. Wienstadt,  
112 Reservoir Avenue,  
Jersey City Heights, N. J.

Dear Dr. Wienstadt:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th instant in regard to the belt compound and in reply beg to say that I have talked to our engineer and to the Vice President about this matter. They say that if you will send the six pound sample ~~can~~ to me as you propose, they will give it a fair trial and advise you later whether they can use any of it for our belting.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*E. J. ...*

*First*

Nov. 24th, 1913.

C. A. Coffin, Esq.,  
General Electric Co.,  
30 Church Street,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Coffin:-

Replying to your favor of the  
18th instant as to whether I consented to become one of  
the Incorporators of the Association named, let me say  
that I did. In fact, I signed the Certificate of  
Incorporation today.

The copy of the Certificate is  
herewith returned to you.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*TAE*

*First*

November 24, 1913.

Mr. Jacques Loeb,

Mare Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research,

66th Street and Avenue A, New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed find check for \$25.00; Mr. Edison's  
contribution to the "ERNEST HAECKEL FUND FOR MONISM"  
as mentioned in your letter of the 14th instant.

Yours very truly,

*H. S. Miller*  
Secretary.

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Nov. 25th, 1913.

Mrs. Robert Miller,  
17 W. 45th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mrs. Miller:

I duly received your favor of the 20th instant and showed it to Mr. Edison. He wants me to inform you that we have no place in Chicago where a record could be taken of the voice of the lady whom you mention. Our only recording rooms are in New York City, and he doubts whether it would pay to go to the expense of making a trip from Chicago to New York to make a trial record. Of course, he cannot say whether the lady would consider it worth while or not, but if she wishes to incur that expense we shall be very glad to take a record of her voice at the Recording Rooms in New York City.

If there were any means of taking a record in Chicago we would suggest it. Many people take records of their own voices in an amateur way, but that would not mean anything to us as a record taken in this way would not give any indication as to whether the voice was of the peculiar kind that would be suitable for making our phonograph records.

Yours very truly,

Wm. L. Miller

*First*

Nov. 25th, 1913.

Mr. Frederick H. Cowles,  
R. F. D. #1,  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Dear Mr. Cowles:-

I have received your favor of the 14th instant, regarding the campaign in which you are engaged, and have read its contents with a great deal of interest.

You ask me if I favor the enactment by the States of laws making the teaching of Fire Prevention a part of the regular school course. In reply let me say that I most certainly do favor such a movement, and believe that its ultimate value to the Country would be beyond present calculations.

The examples of the proposed methods of teaching, as quoted in your letter, are good. If I may be allowed to suggest, it would be well to add a plain explanation of the sad results of fires, such as wounds, death of relatives and friends, and also the seriousness of money losses. We are all too apt to say "don't" without giving the young mind a reasonable reason therefor.

With good wishes for the success of the movement, I

remain

Yours very truly,

*Thomas Edison*

Trout

Nov. 19th, 1913

Mr. Gilbert E. Chandler,

% Boston Athletic Assoc.,

Exeter Street, Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Chandler:-

Referring to your favor of Sept. 19th,  
let me say that I have been exceedingly busy for the last  
six or seven weeks and have only recently had time to listen  
to the "Boston Commandery March". It is my practice to  
pass upon all the music that is put on my Disc phonograph.  
I have given orders to the Recording Department to make a  
Disc record of the above named march when they reach it in  
regular order.

Yours very truly,

*Shos A. Edison*

*First*

Nov. 29, 1913.

Dear Mr. Clifford:

The following are the remarks made by Mr. Edison in regard to your favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, in reference to the Rolls:

"Not knowing the construction of the Rolls it is hard to say. You say the faces were 18 inches. Ballantine will make them 5 inches. This of itself raises the pressure on the ore nearly 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  without putting any more pressure on the Bearings. If the Bearings are any good we can easily increase the speed, and the result will be that you will do 2 or 3 times more crushing than you could do as they were originally."

Yours very truly,

W. H. Ladd

*First*

December 1st 1913.

Mr. E. Meyer, Mgr. of Sales,  
Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
St. James Bldg., New York.

Dear Mr. Meyer:-

The past few years the calendars of  
the Cement Company have adorned the Laboratory,  
Offices etc. A dozen or so would be very much  
appreciated by

Yours very truly,

*H. J. Miller*  
Secretary.



*First*  
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Dec. 1st, 1913.

Messrs. John Mullen & Son,  
 Shamokin, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 24th instant to Mr. Edison was received, and I am going to write to you, as he is exceedingly busy day and night as some very important work.

You will probably remember me from the early electric lighting days. I was then Major Eaton's Secretary, and now am rounding out my career as Mr. Edison's Assistant.

I am familiar with all this Cruikshank correspondence and regret its existence as it originated in the first place through Mr. Edison's good nature in looking at the patent papers and in making the remarks thereon that he did, in order to save Mr. Cruikshank unnecessary expense.

Let me say for your information that Mr. Edison conceived the idea of talking motion pictures more than 25 years ago, and experimental work has been going on in the laboratory, to a greater or less extent, ever since. When Mr. Cruikshank's papers came they were put into Mr. Edison's mail basket in the regular way, just as we do with anything to be brought to his attention. On coming to these papers he glanced over them, spending less than five minutes in the operation and then made his memorandum thereon in accordance with his custom in disposing of his mail. They were returned with the rest of the day's correspondence to his Secretary, who attended to answering the letters in accordance with the memoranda. Mr. Edison never saw the papers again.

The comments he endorsed on the papers were made in view of the inventions that had been made in our Laboratory and under his direction during the preceding years, and also in view of what had been done in foreign countries.

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Messrs. John Kullen & Son,  
 Page -2-  
 Dec. 1st, 1913.

I have related these facts to you to show that Mr. Cruikshank's papers did not receive any more special attention than Mr. Edison gives to hundreds of papers of like nature that came in his mail. He has no need of ideas from outside sources, as he now has more ideas recorded than he could work out if he lived to be 200 years old. He was the originator of the talking motion picture idea, and it would indeed be strange if he had not had a complete working plan many years before Mr. Cruikshank wrote to him, especially in view of the vast amount of experimental work that had been carried on here since 1887.

I can tell you with certainty that Mr. Cruikshank's ideas were already old to us when he submitted them. Mr. Edison is fundamentally honest, and broad minded enough to realize that he cannot know it all. If he comes across an invention of another man that will be useful in our business he is always ready to purchase at a fair price. If Mr. Cruikshank had submitted a new and useful idea Mr. Edison would probably have signified a willingness to enter into some arrangement about it. But Mr. Cruikshank did not submit a new idea, and now makes the unusual (and I think absurd), request that Mr. Edison disclose to him the contents of our patent applications. This is equivalent to a stranger asking a business man to disclose the contents of his private ledger. As business men you can appreciate this comparison.

As to your position in this matter, it is exceedingly simple. You gave a letter of introduction to Mr. Cruikshank, a fellow townsman, and later advised him to send his papers to Mr. Edison. You assumed no responsibility. Mr. Edison was not anxious to see the papers; - far from it, - but consented out of his good nature because he respected your introduction. The papers came; he saw them and found they contained an old idea already covered, and said so. That is all there is to it. The result at this end is, that since this matter came up Mr. Edison has adopted a rigid policy of refusing to look at inventor's papers unless an application for patent has first been filed. By so doing he may have to decline doing a good turn for a friend occasionally, but he will certainly avoid any such misunderstandings in future.

Trusting this explanation will tend to clear up the situation so far as you are concerned, I remain

Yours very truly,

*First*

Dec. 3rd, 1913.

Dr. James Russell Price,  
6809 Wentworth Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of  
the 30th ultimo, enclosing circular of the Eagle Primary  
Battery.

In reply let me say: (1) that I  
know nothing whatever about this battery, and (2) that I  
absolutely and unequivocally deny having made an offer of  
any kind for it. Any statement to the contrary is absolute-  
ly false.

Yours very truly,

*John A. ...*

*First*  

---

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Dec. 3rd, 1913.

Mr. Charles H. Eastjer,  
16 West Madison St.,  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:-

I received your recent favor in answer to my inquiry, and beg to thank you therefor.

If you are coming over this way in the near future, Mr. Edison would like to have a talk with you. As I told you, there is nothing really definite at this moment, but he has some plans in mind and will have a chat with you on the subject covered by your advertisement and letter.

The way to get out here is by the Lackawanna Railroad, or if you are coming to New York on the Pennsylvania Railroad you could get off at Newark, and take a car at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station at Market St. This trolley should be marked West Orange, and will bring you to the Laboratory door, where you could inquire for me at the Gate House. Any day is satisfactory, and as for the time, say, 9:30 to 12:30 in the morning and from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon, except Saturday, when it would be best to make a visit in the morning, if your coming should happen on that day.

If possible, it would be advisable to let me know a day in advance of your coming.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



Dec. 3rd, 1913.

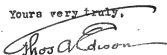
Mr. Curtis B. Camp,  
Kellogg Switchboard & Supply Co.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 24th ultimo in regard to the Gilliland patent #356,197, for telephone receiver, came to hand. I have been so very busy the last week or ten days that an answer thereto has been delayed.

I cannot remember the details of this matter with any degree of certainty, but my impression is that we used it on the Lehigh Valley trains in connection with our space telegraphy, when we were sending telegrams to and from moving trains in 1886 and 1887. I am quite sure that I have not got any of these telephone receivers.

Yours very truly,



*Kirst*  
236

Dec. 3rd, 1913

Mr. Randall Hargreaves,  
 160 Claremont Avenue,  
 New York City, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Hargreaves:

Your favor of the 28rd ultimo was received, but I have been unable to reply before as I have been extremely busy for one thing, and in the next place I have had to wait awhile to obtain Mr. Edison's comment in regard to the record.

I rather regret to be compelled to answer your letter in the way that I have to, but you have asked me to be frank and let you know just what Mr. Edison thinks. I would like you to understand in the first place that Mr. Edison is anxious to have additional voices to call upon to make our records, but he himself is the ~~judge~~ judge as to the results. He says in regard to the records that you have made that the voice does not come quite up to his requirements, as upon the record it shows up rather sharp and lacking in the mellowness that he so much desires. You must bear in mind that the phonograph is a peculiar instrument in some respects yet it is not all voices, no matter how good they may be, that will make satisfactory records upon it, or at least, records that are satisfactory to Mr. Edison, so far as our instrument is concerned.

I do not see but what the above objections might be overcome in time, and would suggest that possibly you might try some different "stunts" in voice cultivation and write me again in a month or two.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Hall*



Dec. 3rd, 1913.

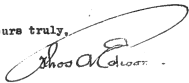
Master Robert F. Rood,  
Peoples Bank,  
Caruthersville, Mo.

Dear young Friend:-

I have received your letter of the 22nd ult., and it gives me much pleasure to learn that you have enjoyed the talking motion pictures so greatly. Perhaps, before you have grown up to be a man, you will be able to see and hear entire operas by these talking motion pictures, and then I think you will enjoy them a great deal more.

As to the wire that runs to the picture machine, let me say that it is part of the apparatus that runs both machines together.

Yours truly,

  
R. F. Rood

First

Dec. 3rd, 1913.

Mr. F. Rathbun,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Smithsonian Institution,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 21st ultimo to Mr.  
E. D. Easton, President of The American Graphophone Co., New  
York, has been forwarded by him to Mr. Edison, as the subject  
matter indicated that the letter should have been sent to him  
in the first place.

Mr. Edison requests me to say that he is  
making an endeavor to find one of the early tin foil phonographs  
for the United States National Museum, and will communicate with  
you later in regard to the matter.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



*First*

Dec. 4th, 1913

Mr. H. Smith,  
Western Development Agent,  
Great Northern Railway,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir:-

Allow me to acknowledge receipt of your favor enclosing photographs of a newspaper printing plant installed on a railroad train, and also a bound volume of "The Glacier Park Blazer" issued from this plant.

These are all exceedingly interesting, and I beg to thank you for them.

It is too bad to spoil your dream of being the pioneer in this direction, but candor compels me to admit that I published a weekly paper when I was a news butcher on a railway train about fifty years ago. Of course, I had no such elaborate plant as your pictures show. I had only three or four fonts of type, and printed my paper on a table with a galley proof roller. I issued the paper weekly for several months and as I remember, it had upwards of two hundred seventy five regular subscribers.

I know of only one copy of this paper in existence, and that is at my house preserved between two sheets of glass. A photographic copy was made and inserted in a biography which was written of me by Dyer M Martin and published by Harper & Brothers, New York.

Yours very truly,

*Chas A. Edison*

*First*

Dec. 6th, 1913.

Mr. J. L. Waite, Editor,  
The Burlington Hawk-Eye,  
Burlington, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Waite:-

I am afraid you will think I am but an indifferent correspondent in taking so long a time to answer your favor of Sept. 22nd. The letter came when I was confined to the house by illness which followed a two weeks vacation (I hope I'll recover from my next vacation more quickly). During the few weeks that I was away there was a tremendous accumulation of matters awaiting my attention, as some of my correspondence has been laid aside for a convenient time.

Now in regard to the subject of your letter, let me say that the prevention of incrustation of boilers by using an electric current works very satisfactorily, but in these modern days pieces of zinc are put in the tubes and this makes a weak current and does the same thing and preserves the iron at the same time. I cannot understand how the cupola would give any results under the conditions you name.

I appear to be a kid in telegraphy when compared to yourself.

"73"

Yours very truly,

*Shoa E. Egan*

*Manuscript returned Received.*

*First*

Dec. 9th, 1913.

Mr. A. R. Birchard, President,  
The Candlestick Publishing Co.,  
264 Main Street,  
Springfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Birchard:

Please accept my thanks for your prompt attention to my letter of the 1st instant. The twelve copies of *The Candlestick* come to hand, and I am glad to have them before the issue had entirely run out.

If you expect to be in the vicinity of New York the week after next, you might let me know a day or two in advance and I will see if we cannot make an appointment for you to come out to the Laboratory.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. B. Smith*

*First*  
305

Dec. 8th, 1913.

Miss Eugenia H. von Boos,  
 92 Lincoln Avenue,  
 Lansdowne, Pa.

Dear Madam:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 3rd instant, and note what you say in regard to the Russian violinist. Let me say for your information that Mr. Edison personally hears all artists and passes upon their availability for making records before they are engaged by the Company.

If, therefore, Mr. Rogovoy expects to be in the vicinity of New York in the near future I shall be glad to make an appointment with him to come over and play for Mr. Edison if he desires to do it. It would be necessary to let me have a few days notice so that I could make an appointment that would conform to Mr. Edison's engagements. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, let me say that artists who come here to play or sing for Mr. Edison ~~will~~ <sup>are</sup> entirely at their own expense.

Replying to your enquiry as to whether or not you may expect to receive ~~some~~ or more Editorials from Mr. Edison during the first part of the coming year, I am afraid I did not make it clear to you in my letter from Atlantic City. I was ill at the time, and possibly did not write clearly. I intended to tell you that Mr. Edison never writes any articles of any kind, nor will he allow them to be written for him unless they concern his active business interests, and then, of course, such an article would only appear in a technical publication. He works from sixteen to eighteen hours a day on his immense business interests and experimental work, and he uniformly declines to take any active part in outside matters. It will be quite obvious to you that it is entirely impossible for him to undertake anything beyond what he is at present engaged on.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. A. Edison*

First

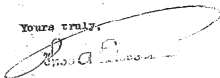
Dec. 24th, 1915.

Miss Susie Green,  
16th & "P" Streets,  
Atchison, Kansas.

Dear Miss Green:-

Your favor of the 30th ultimo is the first I have received from you, and now I write to acknowledge receipt of the same and of the copy of your little poem entitled "The Soul of The Fied Piper", which I have read with much appreciation.

Yours truly,

Freda

*First*

Dec. 8th, 1913.

Mrs. R. W. Park,  
11 Baldwin Street,  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Mrs. Park:-

Your kind letter was received and read with a great deal of interest. It produced the results that you anticipated, and I was glad to pause for a minute or two and smile with you at the naive expression of the negress in your service. Her opinions are quite flattering, and if it were not that I appreciate their apparent simplicity I am afraid I should have to go out and buy a larger hat.

Our Advertising Department would like to use this letter, and I am wondering whether there would be any objection on your part. We could leave out your name, and also the City for that matter, if you so desire. Do not hesitate to express your opinion in the matter, which shall be duly respected.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. A. Edison*

*First*  
*355-356*

Dec. 16th, 1916.

Mr. Ryan P. Bone,  
2635 Glenview Avenue,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to our correspondence and to your favor of the 3rd instant, I beg to say that the device you sent us has received very careful examination at the hands of our experts. We have had an immense amount of work on hand, and have been delayed in completing our tests on this device, but at last it has been accomplished.

Our experts' réport is as follows:

"I have gone carefully into this scheme and while it contains the germ of an idea, it would require a great deal of development, and I don't think it worth while.

Extreme accuracy in both picture and mechanism would be necessary, to say nothing of mirror troubles (tarnishing, etc.) and problems in inertia, momentum, etc."

We shall therefore not be interested in making any offer for this device. If you will kindly notify me where to send it I will have it carefully packed and forwarded to you on receipt of your letter.

I return all your papers and blue prints herewith.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison**THE*

First

Dec. 10th, 1913.

Mrs. J. M. Johnson,  
77 Herkimer Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Madam:-

Your postal card to Mr. Edison has been received and I have shown it to him. He says that as we have just recently started in the Disc phonograph business, he could not be expected have all the fine records at once. We have engaged for more of the best talent than the Victor people, but it will take time to bring them out before the public.

If you will listen to the Victrola along side of the new Diamond Disc Edison machine you will notice at once that true music and tone are absent from the former. It does not produce the tone colors or overtones, and no judgment as to the quality or timbre of a singer's voice is possible.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Lippincott*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



First

Dec. 19th, 1913.

Mr. Wott S. Pond,  
P. O. Box 212,  
Pensacola, Florida.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 5th instant in regard to the Kinetophone has been received. I beg to thank you for your kind interest which prompted you to offer the suggestion therein contained. Let me say in regard thereto that we have been experimenting quite a good deal to reduce the noises, and I have instructed our experts to push the work forward as rapidly as they can, and I trust that we shall be able to remove this objection before long.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*First*

Dec. 10th, 1913.

Standard Essence Co.,  
Maywood,  
N. J.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to your favor of the 29th ultimo,  
and to the small drum containing 300 pounds of Lithium  
Hydrate wet, Mr. Edison desires us to say that as far as  
the container is concerned it is all right, but the LIOH  
was very dirty and we had to recrystallize it. It contains  
too much  $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$ . We would not want to receive continu-  
ous supplies of Lithium Hydrate that would be so dirty as  
this lot or that needed recrystallization.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*W. H. W.*

*Yours*

Dec. 9th, 1913.

Mr. C. M. Scribner,

% Western Electric Co.,

465 West Street,

New York City.

My dear Mr. Scribner:

Replying to your favor of the 6th inst., let me say that as soon as I can find a little time, I will open the boxes now in storage and select from the contents such apparatus that would seem to me to be of interest for the museum that you are establishing.

I shall advise you later concerning the matter.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. M. Lewis*

*First*

Dec. 18th, 1913.

Mr. Walter M. Denman,  
Springfield,  
Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 9th instant has been received, and in reply I would say that the wet mixture is all right. We have twenty two acres of floor space in our buildings here and it is always dry.

I have not seen Mr. Lambie's recent forms, and therefore am not in position to say anything about them. The old forms appeared to me to be rather awkward.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

*First*

Dec. 12th, 1913.

Mr. F. H. Harrison,  
% Aetna Life Ins. Company,  
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 8th instant has been referred to me, and I have read the same with much interest. Let me say for your information that we have a large number of Tango and popular selections in the process of manufacture, and hope to get them out in the hands of the public before long. I have given the list you enclose to the head of my Musical Department with instructions to let me hear those in the list that are not already being made by us.

Thanking you for your kind interest, I

remain

Yours very truly,

*Thos. H. Brown*

154  
648

Dec. 12th, 1913.

Mr. Randall Hargreaves,  
160 Claremont Avenue,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Hargreaves:-

Referring to your favor of the 10th instant, I have seen Mr. Edison in regard to the point mentioned therein. He wants me to say to you that he expects very shortly to be through with some important experiments he has on hand and then he will personally get back to the listening to voices and will try you again. He says the great trouble is that ~~one~~ day a voice may be in fine condition and the next day just the opposite, and he is experimenting upon an instrument that will enable a person to determine when he or she is in good voice. I guess every singer would appreciate such an instrument as this.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. H. H. H. H.*

*First*  
*284*

Dec. 12th, 1913.

Mr. H. Westbury,  
American Ever Ready Co.,  
224 Hudson Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Westbury:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 10th instant, with price list and catalogue of miniature lamps, for which please accept my best thanks.

Will you kindly send me by express at your early convenience one hundred and sixty five of the one candle power series lamp M.P.S. If you can possibly do it, these should be selected for 14 volts, as we are going to use them in multiple on storage batteries. I hope that it will not be too much trouble to select them for the voltage. Kindly send them to me by express at your earliest convenience, as we want to use them about the middle of next week.

Kindly bill them to me and accept my thanks for the confidential discount. With kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*B. J. ...*

Twist  
303

Dec. 12th, 1913.

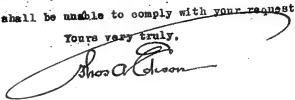
My. Jesse A. Briggs.  
Landmark Lodge No. 442,  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 10th instant, and thank you for the invitation to send an address to Landmark Lodge No. 442, P. & A.M., to be read at its Annual Banquet on the 20th of January.

I regret to say that I shall be compelled to disappoint you, as I am under contract arrangement not to make phonograph records of my own voice. Owing to this fact, you will see that I shall be unable to comply with your request.

Yours very truly,

  
John A. Nelson



*First*

Dec. 17th, 1915.

Mr. T. H. Thurmond,  
P. O. Box 777,  
Shreveport, La.

Dear Sir:-

I duly received your favor of the 6th instant in regard to motor bus system, and would say in reply that I have only approved the general scheme and also a specimen bus that was exhibited to me, but I am not yet prepared to endorse the parties who are pushing the affair until I am satisfied that it is not a stock promoting scheme.

Yours very truly,

*Sho. A. Dixon*

*First*

Dec. 18th, 1913.

Mr. W. L. Saunders,  
% Ingersoll-Rand Co.,  
11 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Saunders:-

Referring to your favor of the 9th inst., let me say that I have inquired of our people and find that they have placed the order for centrifugal pumps with the Worthington people, as their price was \$690 against a bid of \$914 given by your concern. It seems to me that there must have been ~~some~~ error somewhere. Either you are too high or they are absurdly low.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A. Anderson*

*First*

December 19, 1913.

Mr. Thos. A. Edison, Jr.,  
Burlington, New Jersey.

Dear Tom:-

Enclosed find check to the order of Hugh  
B. Miller for \$1000.00, also letter for him to sign.  
Under no circumstances deliver the check to him until  
he signs the letter, before a witness other than  
yourself or wife. Be sure of this. Then send his  
letter to me.

With kindest regards, and wishing you both  
A Merry Christmas, I am,

Yours sincerely,

*John D. Edison*  
Secretary.

*First*

Dec. 22nd, 1913

Miss Maria Paz Grainsborg,  
981 Woodforest Avenue,  
Highbridge, N. Y.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 17th instant to Mr. Edison came to hand. He desires me to say in reply that he will be very glad to have you come over and make a voice trial at the Laboratory, bringing your sister with you if you desire. You may come on Tuesday or Friday of this week at about 10:30 in the morning. If neither of those days will suit your convenience you can make it Monday or Tuesday of next week at the same time. If you do not come Tuesday kindly drop me a line so that I shall know how to arrange other appointments for Mr. Edison.

I enclose a time table of the train. You leave the train at Orange, walk one block up to the Main street and take a trolley going to West Orange. This passes the Laboratory. Please inquire for me at the Gate House.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Harrison*

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Dec. 22nd, 1913

Mr. A. K. Baylor,  
General Electric Co.,  
30 Church Street, New York.

Dear Mr. Baylor:-

I duly received your favor of the 10th instant, enclosing copy of some notes that you prepared for Mr. Martin on the subject of Electric Service and the Public. I have read this paper with a great deal of interest. You have put the case in very plain language, and on the whole I think it is a fine paper.

I believe that everybody should have a free swing; that Government should control but never operate. In my opinion the function of the Government is just to see that we do not oppress each other.

Allow me to extend my congratulations to you on this paper and also to thank you for having given me the opportunity to read it.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

First  
372

Dec. 22nd, 1913

Mr. H. E. Dick,  
The Seal & Fastener Co.,  
140 South Dearborn Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Dick:-

I received your favor of the 15th inst.,  
and have read the same with much interest.

In regard to the selling agency in London  
for the Storage battery, let me say that the man with whom  
I made a contract for the British Isles has recently formed  
a Company and is just commencing to do a little business.  
From all the news that is given to me and the various reports  
I have received from the other side, the future of the  
storage battery in the British Isles seems to be very promis-  
ing.

Yours very truly,

Edison

246

Dec. 24th, 1913

Mr. Jesse A. Briggs.  
% Landmark Lodge No. 442,  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 19th instant to Mr. Edison has been received, and he requests me to say in reply that it is with regret that he is obliged to disappoint you in the request that you make. He has not used the telephone for over thirty years.

Regretting that he cannot oblige you in this matter, we remain

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Wm.

First

Dec. 24th, 1913.

Miss Mary Adele Case,  
18 East 31st Street,  
New York City.

Dear Miss Case:-

I received your note and was very glad indeed to hear from you again. In reply to your enquiry, I would say that my vacation was a pleasant one and I derived a good deal of benefit from it.

In regard to Miss Ruth Haekensbury, would say that she ~~sings~~ and we gave her a trial, but found she would not be satisfactory for the purpose that Mr. Edison desires a soprano singer. The work is very difficult, as it involves the reading and singing at sight of music of all kinds, including the most difficult operatic work. ~~She~~ has a sweet voice and is very willing, but we were all very sure that the work would be too much for her, otherwise I should have been only too glad to have given her the opportunity.

Wishing you the compliments of the Season, I  
remain

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Hall*



First

Dec. 24th, 1913.

Miss Minnie Hatch,  
3250 Euclid Avenue,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Miss Hatch:-

Mr. Edison desires us to acknowledge receipt of your favor and to express his gratification to learn of the pleasure that you derived from hearing the new Diamond Disc Phonograph as demonstrated by Mrs. Ilsen, and to thank you for the many kind words that you have to say in regard thereto.

He also requests us to forward you one of his photographs, in accordance with your desire.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Wm

*First*

Dec. 24th, 1913

Mr. J. Warren Knapp,  
111 Broad Street,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 23rd instant, and beg to say that we will be glad to have you come over and make a voice trial for Mr. Edison. You may come on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week at either 10:30 in the morning or 2:30 in the afternoon.

Will you kindly notify me which day and at what hour you will come.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. L. E. A. B. O. W. S. O. F. 3*

195  
576

Dec. 24th, 1913

Mr. J. E. Proudfoot,  
Singer Building,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Proudfoot:

I would like to have you make me a report about a man named N. B. Ayers. He is at the present time engaged with the General Vehicle Company of New York City. Some time ago he was fighting the New York Edison Company by exploiting the use of the block system of electric lighting. I believe that he was ~~be~~ought out, and the opposition ended in that way. He is seeking to make a business connection with me, and I want to find out about him all that I can. Of course, this is very confidential.

Kindly send your report to Mr. Meadowcroft as

usual.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*ME*

First

Dec. 26th, 1913.

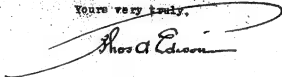
Ford, Bacon & Davis,  
116 Broadway,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your recent favor, and also of the two volumes, "Report of Transit Commissioner, City of Philadelphia", upon a system of subway and elevated railroad. These books are of much interest, and I expect to look at them more thoroughly as soon as I have leisure.

Please accept my thanks for your kindness in complimenting me with these two volumes.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

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Dec. 28th, 1912.

Mr. J. Robert Crouse,  
Mela Park,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Crouse:-

I have received your favor of the 23rd inst., and also the album of views of Camp Co-Operation, for which I beg to extend my thanks to you and to the officials of the Association Island Corporation.

The album is very handsome and, from a passing glimpse of its contents, promises to be very interesting. I have had it sent up to my house, and anticipate a great deal of pleasure in looking over it at my leisure.

From the passing glance which I had of some of the pictures I am inclined to think that when the "good old Summer time" comes again I shall be tempted to participate in the simple life of the Island if circumstances will permit.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

First

Dec. 27th, 1910.

Mr. A. L. Hoover,  
% The Farmers and Citizens Banking Co.,  
Milan, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the  
22nd instant asking financial assistance in connection with  
the Public Library at Milan.

I regret to say that it will not be  
possible for me to respond favorably to your appeal at the  
present time, as I am just now employing all my spare capital  
to build up my new disc phonograph business, which has called  
for a very large investment. I may be able to do something  
for you a little later on when I have this enterprise thorough-  
ly well established and going.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

First

Dec. 28th, 1913.

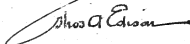
Mr. Francis W. Parker,  
Parker & Carter,  
Suite 1410 Marquette Bldg.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Parker:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your  
favor of the 18th instant, and also of the six copies of  
your paper "The Spirit of Invention", for which I pray you  
to accept my sincere thanks.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

First

December 31, 1913.

Essex County Jail,

Mr. Samuel Golcher, Keeper,

Newark, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison is sending to the jail with him  
compliments a HOME PHONOGRAPH and one hundred and  
fifty records. He trusts it may bring to the  
inmates a little sunshine in their confinement.

Yours very truly,

*H. S. Miller*  
Secretary.



204

Jan. 2nd, 1914.

Mr. Evan P. Bone,  
2633 Cleinview Avenue,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your favor of the 19th ultimo, we beg to give you below an extract from the report of another of our engineers to whom we submitted your device:

"The arrangement of mirrors on this head, to displace the shutter ordinarily used, is very pretty in theory, but is impracticable from the practical standpoint.

It operates on the basis of moving the film intermittently, as in present practice, but in picking up the first half of the film as it progresses, deflecting the picture upon a mirror - fixed - at a position below the normal beam, from thence reflecting it upon the screen. The revolving mirror is not only rotated, but is moved rapidly in an oscillating direction, the endeavor being to keep the picture, on the screen, perfectly steady, although it is reflected from a moving film.

It is necessary to use surface mirrors, that are hard to keep sufficiently bright to be efficient, and the whole layout is one which causes excessive vibration of the head, thereby defeating the object for which it is designed.

The invention has the germ of an idea which, if worked out, might become almost as satisfactory as the present shutter arrangement, but even so, it would conflict with patents of the Vangoscope, which accomplishes the same thing as this endeavors to accomplish, but by a system of mirrors rotated between the source of light and the lens. The latter is very inefficient from the standpoint of illumination, the losses being quite great. They are also unable to run the film faster than eight pictures per second.

✓  
Mr. Evan F. Bone,  
Page -2-  
Jan. 2nd, 1914.

"I am quite sure we would not be interested in buying  
this invention from Mr. Bone."

We will therefore return the machine to you accord-  
ing to the address given in your favor of the 19th ultimo.

Yours very truly,

Hudson Laboratory.

Hudson

First

Jan. 2nd, 1914.

A. W. Shaw Company,  
Wabash Ave. & Madison St.,  
Chicago, Ills.

Gentlemen:-

If my recollection is correct, I have seen in your magazine, "System", ~~some~~ <sup>several</sup> articles in relation to engineering in connection with shop methods and processes. As far as I recollect, it is the ~~Tagler~~ <sup>Tagger</sup> System, and I think motion pictures of different processes were taken in connection therewith. Can you give me any reference to this or to the concern that makes a specialty of this line?

Thanking you in advance for any information you may give me on the subject, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Macrowitz*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Jan. 3rd, 1914.

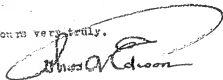
Mr. Lowell H. Brown, Pres.,  
P. J. Moranti, Inc.,  
2 Wall Street,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Brown:-

I received your favor of the 26th ultimo, and would say in reply that the New Jersey Geological Survey have published some of the surveys that I made, and you can possibly get the information that you desire from an examination of the same. However, if they are not full enough you can come over to the Laboratory and see what I have here. There are ten billion tons of ore in New Jersey.

Thanking you for your kind wishes for the New Year, and assuring you of my hearty reciprocation thereof, I remain

Yours very truly,



300  
692

Jan. 3rd, 1914.

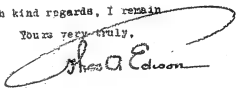
Mr. H. E. Dick,  
The Seal & Fastener Company,  
140 South Dearborn Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Dick:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 26th ultimo in regard to the prospectus of the selling company that has been organized for handling the storage battery in the British Isles. I am sorry to say that I cannot let you have a copy of the prospectus right away, as I have only got one and do not wish to part with it. I will write and get an extra one and send it to you later, or will have it sent direct from London.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

H. E. Dick

221

638

Jan. 3rd, 1914.

Mr. J. F. Monnot,  
Edison Accumulators Ltd.,  
49 Old Bond Street  
London, W., England.

Dear Mr. Monnot:-

Mr. Edison would like to have you send him one or two extra copies of the prospectus of your company, and if convenient will you kindly also send one copy to his friend, Mr. H. E. Dick, % The Seal & Fastener Company, 140 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

Wishing you the compliments of the Season.

I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. McCabrown*

*First*

Jan. 3rd, 1914.

Theodore E. Vail, Esq.,  
American Telephone & Telegraph Co.,  
15 Day Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Vail:-

Many thanks to you for your kind letter and also for all your good wishes for the New Year, which I very heartily reciprocate. A few months ago I went over to the Western Union twice and called over to see you, but you were not in town, much to my regret.

Won't you jump into your auto some day before long and come out to the Laboratory and see some new things that we have here? I would be very glad indeed to see you, and hope that you may be able to come over within the next few weeks, as I go to Florida next month.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,

*Thos A Edison*

*First*  
509

Jan. 6th, 1914.

Mr. E. Ward Leonard,  
Terrence Park,  
Bronxville, N. Y.

My dear Leonard:-

I received your favor of the 13th ultimo, together with copy of a new Patent Bill, U. S. 10159, introduced by Mr. Oldfield. These have been read by me with a great deal of interest.

I do not think this Bill could be passed. To my mind it would be more satisfactory and liable to pass if it provided that preliminary injunction shall issue when the inventor proves to the satisfaction of the Court that he was first to receive a patent, and that he was the first to introduce into commerce the article covered thereby; such injunction to continue until the final determination by the Courts of the validity of the Patent.

It is easy to prove commercial introduction, and, as the patent would be issued to the inventor, no subsequent pirate could come in and ruin him after he had proved that the article was marketable. In other words, the inventor with his patent and first commercial introduction should have a clear field while the pirate is fighting him. That is all I would ever want.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*



*First*

Jan. 9th, 1914.

Mr. T. I. Crane,  
Hotel Biltmore,  
East 43d Street, New York City.

Dear Mr. Crane:

At the time you telephoned this afternoon your letters were before Mr. Edison and he made the following memoranda thereon. I will quote his own words:

"It will take at least five years to pioneer and get people to see the advantages. It took five years on the electric light and eight and a half years on motion pictures. I feel sure my minimum will make Lisman hustle and leave me in a position to cancel if they fail to take and pay."

"The contract is O.K., no matter what Lisman does he must take a certain number of cells and pay in 30 days. If he don't, I saw out him off on 30 days notice. Our safety lies in the minimum."

Let me add that Mr. Edison is much pleased to have you take such a lively interest in the contract and the Company's affairs. He has given a great deal of his personal time and efforts to the preliminaries that preceded the making of this present contract with Lisman, and he does not see that we can do any better at this time.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Meadowcroft*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Jan. 6th, 1914.

Mr. A. Melzer,  
Evansville,  
Ind.

Dear Mr. Melzer:

I must ask you to pardon the delay in replying to your favor of November 6th. I have been ~~as~~ very much occupied day and night with very important business and experimental matters the last few weeks, that some of my correspondence has been sadly neglected.

I don't see how we shall be able to strike up a business deal, ~~as~~ we no longer use ~~wax~~ for making phonograph records for the public. For our small cylinder records we use a compound containing celluloid, and for the Disc records we use the very hard condensation product of Carbolic Acid and Hexamethylenetetramine. This material is almost as hard as glass and permits us to obtain ~~a~~ very large volume of sound. Our Master records are still made of the same material, and none of our other experiments were found to be an improvement thereon.

I am very glad indeed to learn that you are enjoying the benefits of the latest scientific developments.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas Edison*

*First*  
*4 48*

Jan. 10th, 1914.

Mr. Melville Clark,  
410 So. Mich. Boulevard,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Clark:-

I duly received your favor of the 5th instant with enclosure, and read the same with a great deal of interest.

This being the Automobile Show week in New York, we have had quite a number of automobile men visiting us, and I have taken the liberty of handing your letter and the accompanying paper to one of them who is a friend of mine. I am very sure that he will feel much interested in the matter and hope that it may ultimately result in some business.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Edwards*

*P.S. By-the-way, Mr. Edison will be going to  
Florida soon after the middle of next month,  
so you had better be ready for the piano  
matters pictures so that he can start the  
filming going before he leaves.*

*First*  
*448*

Jan. 10th, 1901.

Mr. Melville Spill,  
110 So. Michigan Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Spill:

I have been at your place of the 5th Inst. and  
am glad to have met you. I had a great deal of interest.

After the meeting of the 5th Inst. I had a  
long, interesting conversation with you. You were visiting me,  
and I was then the owner of the 5th Inst. and the  
representative of the 5th Inst. in the 5th Inst. I  
am glad you were there. I am glad and interested in the matter and  
hope that it will be a success in the future.

Very respectfully,  
J. H. Spill

*Wm. H. Spill*

P.S. By-the-way, Mr. Edison will be going to  
Florida soon after the middle of next month,  
so you had better be ready for the piano  
motion pictures so that he can start the  
thing going before he leaves.

First

Jan. 9th, 1914.

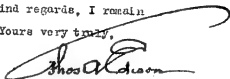
Mr. L. W. Serrell,  
29 Broadway,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Serrell:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 7th instant, and would say that we have two films showing stagnant water and the fierce struggle for existence of the creatures with which it is filled. We have also a small projecting machine for these films, and I will request the head of the proper department to forward you an illustrated catalogue and particulars concerning the films.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,



253  
544

Jan. 19, 1914.

Mr. W. S. Mallory,  
Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
Stewartsville, N. J.

Dear Mr. Mallory:

We have trouble with our Clinax Boilers here oftener than Mr. Edison thinks is necessary or desirable, and he believes that our people do not know how to care for them properly. He says that you have run them for many years in the Cement Plant without any trouble, and says that he would be glad to have you send your engineer down here to see our Mr. Nicholai on the matter and go over the situation with him so that we may probably be able to profit by such advice as he can give us in regard to the care of the boilers.

When your engineer comes down here, he perhaps had better see me first and I will take him down to Mr. Nicholai.

Yours very truly,

*H. H. Henshaw*

*First*  
477

Jan. 19, 1914.

The Phonograph Co.  
229 So. Wabash Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

Referring once more to the matter of the Urius records, kindly let me say that yesterday Mr. Edison came to the conclusion that he would withdraw these Urius records for the present until he can see whether or not he can make improvements in the master to eliminate the roughness. Of course, he appreciates that your points are well taken and the same objections have been made by others.

We would have Urius record them again right away, but he has been overworked this season and we do not know whether we can get him to sing these records over again right away or not. We ~~are~~ trying our best to bring about that result, ~~as~~ Mr. Edison is very anxious to be in a position to supply these records if he possibly can.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. S. ... of*

*First*

Jan. 19, 1914.

Mr. R. T. St. John,  
General Electric Co.,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 9th inst. has been received. In reply let me say that it would be difficult at present to give you any idea of the net price of the Type 200 and 300-A diamond disc phonographs with electric motor. We are so exceedingly busy filling our orders for the spring motor machines that the factory is fully occupied with this work, and it will be sometime before we shall be in position to quote prices on the instrument with the electric equipment.

I think it is going to be a matter of some difficulty to avoid occasional changes of speed with an electrically driven instrument, on account of surges of the current, which may occur at anytime and cannot be provided against as they sometime rise and fall so quickly that no provision can be made against it.

We have been working on a new governor for our spring driven machine, and we have got it down pretty fine. One of our recent reports shows that the machine ran nine days, 10 hours per day, and did not vary one revolution. I think this will strike you as being pretty good.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*CHM*



First

Jan. 12. 1914

Miss Anna B. Smith,  
113 Balsteed St.  
East Orange, N. J.

Dear Miss Smith:

Replying to your favor of the  
12th inst. I beg to say that Mr. Edison chose for  
himself another one of the applicants for the position  
that was recently advertised, so the matter has been  
closed.

Yours very truly,



Finck  
555

Jan. 21st, 1914.

Mr. Dan Baker,  
General Vehicle Company,  
24 State Street,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Baker:-

Your favor of the 19th instant to Mr. Edison, enclosing the advertisement of Haffenreffer & Co. has been received, and I have shown it to Mr. Edison, who has been confined to the house for a few days with an attack of Lumbago. He is now getting around a little, and I expect him down within the next two or three days. I will not delay, however, in sending you his comments, which he wrote himself on your letter. They are as follows:

"Baker - This advertisement is a cracker-jack. Everyone wanting or contemplating trucks will ponder over it. This advertisement is a master stroke of business on your part, and I congratulate you.

Edison"

It is superfluous to say in view of the above that he was very greatly pleased.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Baker*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*First*  


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*488*

Jan. 19, 1914.

Mr. H. Kobb,  
 Charles Chipman's Sons,  
 88 Leonard St.,  
 New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 12th inst. to our Mr. Maxwell was sent by him to me for my personal perusal. I found it very interesting.

I am very anxious to get Mr. Uhlus to make some more records for us, and he is going to do it, but unfortunately we shall not be able to get him immediately, as he has had a hard season at the Metropolitan Opera House and needs a little rest before he can make the records. This will be better for our customers as we shall get the advantage of his being in better voice. I am glad you like his singing.

I have noted with a good deal of interest your remarks in regard to Martinelli and Anselmi. They are both good, but I think that Anselmi is the finest interpreter of music that I have listened to. Let me say to you that after working so long and so hard to produce an instrument that will give music lovers something to enjoy, it is very gratifying to be favored with such commendatory expressions of opinion as are contained in your letter.

The postscript to your letter has touched me in a tender place. It has been my intention and earnest desire to put nothing but real, beautiful music on my disc phonograph, and I have expended an enormous amount of thought and work and money in this direction. After putting out the records which we have listed and expecting to continue along those lines, I have been much chagrined by receiving letters from dealers all over the country saying that they can only sell a small amount of such stuff, and for heaven's sake to give them tango and regtime. I have fought against it

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Mr. H. Kobb  
Page -2-  
Jan. 19, 1914.

for sometime, but find that I shall have to give in and allow a certain amount of that sort of music to be recorded for the purpose of satisfying the trade. However, I am not going to give up my original intention of having real music recorded for the benefit of those who take delight in it.

Yours very truly,

*Phos A Edson*

404  
656

Mr. H. G. Flimpton,  
% Edison Studio, 2826 Decatur Ave.,  
Bedford Park,  
New York.

Jan. 21st, 1911.

My dear Mr. Flimpton:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th instant enclosing copy of letter written by you to Mrs. Harriet Fritchard, Superintendent of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union. I have shown the whole correspondence to Mr. Edison, so he will be fully posted in case these ladies seek another interview with him on this subject.

It is true that they were here sometime ago, but Mr. Edison was rather afraid that we could not do anything that would answer both their requirements and those of the public.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Meadows*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Tired*

Jan. 19, 1914.

Mr. R. H. Wallace, Pres.  
The Traffic Club of New York,  
291 Broadway  
New York City

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 14th inst. and to thank you for your very kind invitation to attend the Eighth Annual Dinner of the Traffic Club of New York on February 11th.

Your courtesy is greatly appreciated, but I shall be unable to send you a favorable reply, as that day is my birthday and I believe my wife is making some arrangements for me to be at home on that evening.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

Pirsk

Jan. 21st, 1914.

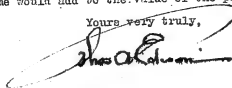
Pattison Brothers,  
1182 Broadway,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 19th instant, enclosing  
copy of a paper by Mr. C. M. Ripley in regard to the life  
of electric apparatus in isolated plants, has been received.

I have read this paper with a good deal of  
interest and must ask you to accept my thanks for your kind-  
ness in forwarding it to me. I do not know that any sugges-  
tion from me would add to the value of the paper.

Yours very truly,



File

Jan. 23rd, 1914

Mrs. Bayard Dodd,  
Scotland Road,  
South Orange, N. J.

Dear Mrs. Dodd:-

Apropos of your recent conversation with Mrs. Edison in regard to the poor quality of motion picture films showed in South Orange, she has asked me to send you the enclosed report of the Censor's action in Chicago, after seeing the films that were to be shown in the motion picture theatres there. You will see that while many of the other companies had large portions of their films thrown out, the Edison Company lost only eighteen ~~four~~ which is very trivial indeed.

These reports do not usually go out of our office, but Mrs. Edison thought you would be interested in seeing it and asked me to send it to you, calling attention to the fact that it is confidential. Will you kindly return it to me after you have looked it over?

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Lummus*

Assistant to Mr. Edison.



First

Jan. 23rd, 1914.

Mr. T. B. Donaldson,  
331 Walnut Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

Your favor of the 19th instant, together with the original tin foil phonograph record mentioned therein has come to hand. It brings back vividly to my mind a day many years past when I went to the Patent Office with my first phonograph. The pencilings on the wrapper and your late father's recollections are correct.

Allow me to thank you for your letter and for the privilege of looking at this old tin foil record. I also thank you for the offer you make, but I think you would better present it to the Franklyn Institute, as they have better means of preserving it for the future than I have.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

First

Jan. 23rd, 1914.

Mrs. E. S. Brown,  
170 So. 3rd Street,  
Fulton, N. Y.

Dear Madam:-

I have received your favor of the 17th instant, and have carefully noted the contents of the same. Let me say in reply that I have been fighting a hard battle with dirt and dust in the factory where ~~our~~ records are manufactured. I do not mean dirt and dust as ordinarily understood, but microscopic particles which would escape ordinary notice or investigation. We have been eliminating these troubles gradually, and our later records are coming through with a much smoother surface than we obtained with the earlier records. I have not the least doubt but we shall be able to eliminate rough surface sounds entirely before very long. I think you will find that the later records which we are now turning out are very much smoother. We are receiving lots of commendatory letters from our customers about them.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

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Jan. 23, 1914.

Mr. H. Ward Leonard,  
Bronxville, N. Y.

My dear Leonard:-

The ~~mess~~ you mention in your letter would work out O. K. under the scheme I outlined. If one should invent a detail to an electric locomotive and should ~~make~~ offers, with full working drawings, to those engaged in the trade, this would come under the head of "Commercial introduction". You had better think it over very carefully.

A very simple form of Bill could be drawn and submitted to all members of the Inventors Guild with a request that each ~~one~~ should try to imagine any suppositions case whereby the objects of the bill could be defeated.

If ~~one~~ or more members submitted such a case, then the Bill could be changed to ~~take care~~ of this, and so on until finally a Bill could be presented that would require more ingenuity than inventors have to beat it.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Pierce

Jan. 26th, 1914.

Mr. H. N. Nichols,  
Williamstown,  
Lewis Co., Mo.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 17th instant to Mr. Edison has been received. In reply he requests us to say that he has no special recommendation of any particular device to make to those who are afflicted with deafness. As for himself, he does not ordinarily use anything unless he wishes to hear some special music or something of that kind, and then he uses a plain tin speaking horn with a leather pad on the end to fit close to his ears.

Yours truly,

Edison Laboratory.



Jan. 26th, 1914.

United Telegraph Record Co.,  
630 Rowell Bldg.,  
Fresno, Cal.

Gentlemen:-

Mr. Edison has been so busy for some time past that it has only just been possible for him to hear the second lot of records that you sent to him.

He says that the new records also have the back stroke, and that you must make the down stroke on your sounder stronger and the up stroke weaker and of a different quality if you expect these records to be generally read. If the volume and the quality of the up and down stroke is the same, it is easy to see that the back stroke will come in and bother the listener.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*J. E. Searle*

Jan. 26th, 1914.

Mr. Henry Ford,  
Detroit,  
Michigan.

Dear Mr. Ford:-

You probably received today a letter from Mr. R. M. Searle, the Vice President of the Rochester Railway & Light Company, Rochester, N. Y., in regard to the electric automobiles which the newspapers reported that you and Mr. Edison were about to manufacture.

We have received a great many letters here about this subject, and Mr. Edison has taken the uniform policy of stating that he cannot discuss this matter with the writers of these various letters, but that they should address themselves to you. In most cases we have not replied to the letters at all, but Mr. Searle having started as a boy in Mr. Edison's Office, Mr. Edison thought we had better write to him to the above effect.

It is far from Mr. Edison's intention to add to your multitudinous troubles by referring people to you. It is only in a few cases where he cannot very well do otherwise. It is not intended for a moment that you should depart out of the ordinary routine of your business in any of these cases unless we write specifically to that effect, and that is not very likely. There is no special reason in this case why you should put yourself out to comply with the letter you have received, unless you think otherwise.

Yours very truly,

*W. E. Searle*

P. S. I enclose an advance number of our ~~house~~ *"Tops"*. Perhaps the chronological table in the interior pages will interest you.

First

Jan. 27, 1914.

Mr. Algernon T. Sweeney,  
Room 427 Prudential Building,  
Newark, N. J.

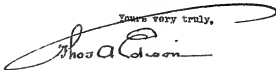
Dear Mr. Sweeney:-

I am in receipt of your letter in regard to furnishing the Edison Record Military Band at the Colby reception next Friday evening. Unfortunately I shall be unable to comply with your wishes.

The fact is, our Band people ~~are~~ specially trained for phonograph work and would not be available for regular work of the kind you mention.

Regretting that I am unable to accommodate you in this matter, I remain

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas Edison

*First*  
554

Jan. 27th, 1814.

Mr. J. B. Ballantine,  
Silver Plume Reduction Co.,  
Silver Plume, Colo.

Dear Mr. Ballantine:

I am afraid that you will think that I am but a poor correspondent, for it is quite a little while since I received your favor of the 11th instant. The fact is, Mr. Edison has been laid up for about two weeks with an attack of Lumbago. As you know, this is not at all dangerous, but it is painful and inconvenient, and it kept him to the house. Consequently, I have been simply loaded up with work and have been obliged to allow my correspondence to glide along much more than I like as a general thing.

I showed Mr. Edison your letter, and he appears to be very well pleased with the progress that you are making. It seems to me that you are getting along finely, and I shall hope to hear in the near future that you are getting some of the real stuff."

With kindest regards and a thousand good wishes, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Harrison*



73  
639

Jan. 28th, 1914.

Dr. A. E. Hienstadt,  
112 Reservoir Avenue  
Jersey City Heights, N. J.

Dear Dr. Hienstadt:-

I received your favor of the 15th instant, and have been making some inquiries from our people in regard to their experience in using the Non Slip Compound.

They have used it according to instructions, but I am sorry to say that they do not report favorable results. The stuff peels right off as soon as they begin to use the pulley, and they do not find it at all satisfactory for their use.

Of course, it is possible that they may not have used it in the way that you have, but they tell me positively that they used it exactly in accordance with your instructions.

I am very sorry that I cannot send you better news.

Yours very truly,

*W. J. H. H. H.*

First

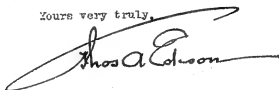
Jan. 28th, 1914.

Stone & Company,  
London,  
England.

Gentlemen:-

Having now entered into an arrangement with you for use by you of the Edison storage battery for railway train lighting in various parts of the world, let me say that I should be very glad to see your firm conduct a railway car lighting business in America, and further, in case you should conclude to do so we should be glad to render you every assistance that we can consistently give you without jeopardizing any interest or affiliations already existing.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thomas Edison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

First

Jan. 26th, 1914.

Mr. H. R. McGuinn, Secty.,  
Richmond Chemical Company,  
356 Pine Street,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 19th instant has been received.

In reply I beg to say that I have no use for the sulphate of sodium  
in our works here. Sulphate of sodium is a drug in nearly every  
works where it is a waste product.

Electrically, salt is better and cheaper than sul-  
phate of sodium for making caustic soda.

Yours very truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely belonging to H. R. McGuinn, written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

*First*

Jan. 28th, 1914.

Mr. Geo. M. Neubauer,  
% Nahlik & Bremser,  
Oriol Building,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Neubauer:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 14th instant, and must ask you to excuse the delay in replying thereto, as I have been laid up for a few days with an attack of Lumbago.

After working so hard and so long as I have to perfect the phonograph so as to reproduce beautiful music, it is peculiarly gratifying to me to learn from some of those who possess my Disc machine that I have succeeded in accomplishing the results that I had in mind from the beginning. I want to thank you for your very kind words in regard to the machine and records, and I trust that you will find the later records maintain a constant improvement, as I am working hard all the time to make them still more perfect.

Let me thank you for your suggestion that we should obtain a trial record of Miss Grace Van Studdiford, and would say for your information that I have instructed our Recording Department to proceed accordingly. It may be that Miss Van Studdiford is touring just now, but we will give the matter our early attention.

As to the attachment that is sold to play Victor records on the Edison machine, there seems to be no doubt that the Victor records sound much better played in that way than they do on the Victor machine, but, of course, it is only natural that I, personally, should be rather inclined to wish that only our records be played on our machine.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

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Jan. 20th, 1914.

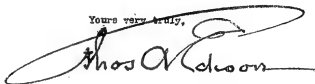
Mr. John Stout,  
237 Morris Street,  
Phillipsburg, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 22nd instant today,  
and have noted the contents of same.

I am sure you will admit that I have done everything  
that I possibly could to bring about a settlement of this matter. I  
am so very busy that I cannot spend any more time on it personally,  
and I have turned it all over to Mr. Mallory for him to carry out all  
the necessary negotiations. We agreed to arbitrate, and also have  
made an offer to buy the property and am waiting your decision as to  
which you will accept.

Yours very truly,



Thomas A. Nelson

File

Jan. 28th, 1914.

Dr. William H. Tolman,  
Director General,  
American Museum of Safety,  
29 West 39th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 9th instant, together with the certificate of award of grand prize to the Edison Storage Battery Company at the First International Exposition of Safety and Sanitation, held under the auspices of the American Museum of Safety.

Allow me to thank you therefore, and to express my gratification that the efforts of my company have been recognized in this manner.

Yours very truly,

Thomas Edison

First

Jan. 27th, 1914.

Miss Helen L. Essen,  
The Phonograph Co.,  
229 So. Wabash Avenue,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 21st ultimo to Mr. Editor H. Miller was shown to Mr. Edison. He read your criticisms and suggestions with much interest, and now wishes us to send you his comments, as follows:

82617. - Bori made two records of this song. Both are alike. Artists of this type resent any suggestions.

80103. - We have found that, without any exception to speak of, singers are at one time in good voice and at another time are not. It is not the fault of the phonograph. Sometimes we take records over two or three times, and then finally throw them out.

82003. - Both Bonci records of this selection are exactly alike. He has lost most of his overtones. He is sharp from this cause, and has a bad, disagreeable tremolo.

82049. - Miss Yaw sang this record ~~times~~ times and every defect is in each record.

Cisneros's singing does not sound well when she sings in the English language, although she is an American.

You say that our instrumental music is good generally, but that in 82042, 82512, 82035, 83008, 82034, 82036 and 82615 there is faulty reproduction, and no fault of the artist's. Why should the phonograph discriminate? You will find in time, as we have found, that, if there are defects, they are in the voice of the artist. Most voices will not stand close inspection. We thought differently at one time.

Mr. Edison says he will be glad to have you send in more criticisms. We want all we can get.

Yours very truly,

*H. J. Lawrence*

ASSISTANT TO MR. EDISON.

First

Jan. 29th, 1914.

Rev. William Arthur Thomas,  
Kirkside Manse,  
South Salem, New York.

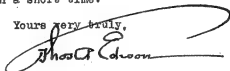
Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 15th instant reached me when I was laid up for a few days at home with an attack of Lumbago, hence the delay in replying. There has been a great many matters awaiting my return to the Laboratory.

Let me thank you for your kind words of appreciation in regard to my Disc phonograph which was demonstrated by our Mr. Morgan. After working so long and so hard to bring about a fine quality of reproduction of beautiful music, it is very gratifying to learn that I have been able to please those to whom it has been my object to appeal.

Let me say in regard to your inquiry that we intend to make a large number of records of music suitable for church services. They will be made by the best choir singers that we can find among the New York churches. Just now we are somewhat congested as we have a mass of music on hand to record, but we hope to get at the church work in a short time.

Yours very truly,

Thomas Edison



*Hirst*

February 2, 1914

Solvay Process Company,  
Syracuse, New York.

Gentlemen:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 12, 1914 in which you notify me that you now elect to relinquish all rights under your contract with me dated July 31, 1912 and under all other contracts referred to therein, with the result therein provided for.

I am also in receipt of your letter of January 14, 1914 in which you offer to sell me the Edison rolls now installed at Sibley, Michigan. At present I do not know of any market for the rolls and will add them to our list and if we have an opportunity to aid you in selling them, we shall be glad to do so. In this connection I wish to remind you that any sale of the large rolls, which are patented by me, must be in accordance with Paragraph Fifteen quoted in the contract with you dated July 31, 1912, and subject to the payment of royalties to me. You are therefore requested to advise me fully regarding any negotiations looking towards the sale of these rolls. As you are no doubt aware, my patents Nos. 672,016 and 672,017, which cover the large rolls and the method of using the same, have been adjudicated and held valid - see 191 Fed. Rep. 507. Furthermore, I have granted certain exclusive territorial licenses under said patents.

Very truly yours,

*Thomas A. Edison*

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Feb. 4th, 1914.

Commodore J. Stuart Blackton,  
Atlantic Yacht Club,  
Locust Avenue,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Sir:-

I have received an invitation from you to attend the opening night of the Vitagraph Theatre on Saturday next, and beg to extend my thanks to you for the courtesy.

I should be very glad indeed to send you an acceptance, but just now I am overwhelmed with work in preparation for my trip to Florida which makes it impossible for me to be away from the Laboratory.

I am sorry that I cannot come.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas A. Edison



Jan. 4th, 1914.

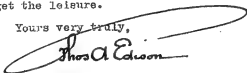
Miss Mary B. Ehrmann,  
The American Express Co.,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 31st ultimo has been received, and I beg to assure you it is very gratifying to me to learn that you have enjoyed the Diamond-Disc phonograph and records so greatly. I think you will find as time goes on and as the records are still farther improved, that your enjoyment of the machine will not diminish.

I note what you say in regard to the fact that Mrs. Ilson is going to send me the books mentioned in your letter. When they arrive, I shall take pleasure in perusing them when I get the leisure.

Yours very truly,



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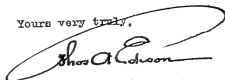
Feb. 4th, 1914.

Mr. J. P. Monnot,  
31 Rue Dara,  
Paris, France.

Dear Mr. Monnot:-

I am writing this merely to let you know that I am making a deal with Stone & Company, of London, for the use of the Edison Storage Battery for railway car lighting in various parts of the world. In making this deal, however, I have not given them any right in France.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas A. Edison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Thomas A. Edison".

*Wired*

Feb. 4, 1914.

Col. Jacob Ruppert,  
3rd Ave. and 90th. St.,  
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Colonel:-

I have been informed that you are in the market for about twenty 5-ton trucks for short hauls. I would consider it a favor if you would allow my engineers to see you and submit figures on short haul hauls.

I believe we can show you something interesting.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

P.S. Whatever we promise, we can do, I will make good, so you will always get what you expect

*Thomas A. Edison*

First

Feb. 6, 1914.

Mr. Ambrose Menell,  
International Nickel Co.,  
34 Exchange Place,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Menell:-

Are you interested in a process for separating  
cobalt from nickel? I have a wonderfully simple trick of doing  
it, and it is highly remunerative.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

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Feb. 7, 1914.

Mr. Richard G. Badger,  
194 Boylston Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Will you please ship by express to Thomas A. Edison.

Port Meyers, Florida, the following books listed in your catalogue:

From Cataract to Equator .....	Dennis
In Northern Labrador .....	Cabot
The Psychopathology of Hysteria .....	Fox
Studies in Abnormal Psychology .....	Prince
Subconscious Phenomena .....	
The Individual and Society .....	Baldwin
Psychology and Sociology .....	Baldwin
The Evil Eye - Thanatology .....	Park
An Experimental Study of Sleep .....	Sidis
Psychopathological Researches in	
Mental Dissociation .....	Sidis

also the following two books, as to which I do not know the publisher:

The Theory of Leisure, by Thorwald Bederf.  
The Cult of the Incompetent, by Paget or Paget

Please send your bill to the Laboratory. Kindly ship books at your early convenience.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. McCosmoff*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison

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Feb. 7, 1914.

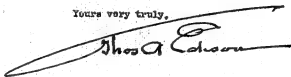
Mr. W. S. Hallory,  
Pres. Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
Stewartsville, N. J.

Dear Hallory:-

This is to confirm the decision I endorsed on  
your letter of yesterday in regard to the offer of \$ 22,500.00 by  
the the New Jersey Zinc Co. for the land located at Edison, N. J.  
I understand that Handovercraft has telephoned it to you through  
Bixler. The decision is as follows:

You can accept offer, but must be careful  
to reserve all mineral rights and all the land and facilities to  
operate the mines, and use of water, etc.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Edison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.



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Mr. J. W. Howell,  
General Electric Company,  
Harrison, N. J.

Feb. 9th, 1914.

My dear Mr. Howell:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th instant in regard to the signs posted around the Laboratory, prohibiting cigarette smoking.

Mr. Edison objects on general grounds to cigarette smoking. He says that excessive cigarette smoking tends toward degeneracy, and as it is difficult for a cigarette smoker to smoke them in great moderation, he disapproves of the practice entirely. He says it is not a question of the tobacco, but the poison which is created in the act of burning the paper. Beside, the cigarette is a great fire hazard in a factory or work-shop. He therefore caused the notices to be put up sometime ago.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. ...*

*Hirok*

Feb. 9th, 1914.

Mme. Ovide Musin,  
51 West 76th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 2nd instant was received, but Mr. Edison has been so very busy ~~this week~~ <sup>the</sup> that I could not make an appointment for him until ~~next week~~ <sup>this</sup>.

If next Saturday afternoon, February 14th, will be convenient for Mr. Musin, we shall be glad to have him come out and play for Mr. Edison. You could take a train from New York at 12:45 or 1:15 which would bring you here about 2:00 o'clock or a few minutes after. I enclose a time table. Take the Lackawanna train and get off at Orange, walk one block up to the main street and take a trolley marked West Orange. This will let you off at the Laboratory door, and you can there inquire for me or for Mr. Hayes.

I shall be glad if you will kindly notify me which train you expect to take.

Yours very truly,

Direct

Feb. 9th, 1914.

Mr. Millard J. Bloomer,  
4 New York Progressive,  
Forty-Second Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Bloomer:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 6th instant inviting me to make one of a party of ten for the Progressives' Lincoln Day Banquet at the Hotel Astor, and wish to thank you for the same.

Unfortunately I shall not be able to be present at the function, as I am making preparations to go to Florida, and my presence at the Laboratory is quite necessary as I have a great many very important things to arrange before I go away.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

*Direct*

February 10, 1914.

O. W. Ewing, Esq.,  
1101 Walker Bank Bldg.,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 26th ultimo regarding Mr. Eddie Brown, beg to say that I have asked Mr. Edison regarding him and he desires me to write you that he does not remember him at all. I have also inquired from some of Mr. Edison's old employees but they tell me they know of no one by that name ever having been associated with Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

*A. E. Miller*  
Secretary.

Hirst

Feb. 9th, 1914.

Mr. J. M. Embree,  
Dobbs Ferry,  
New York.

My dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 6th instant, and notice your criticisms in regard to the quality of the selections that are being put upon our cylinder records at the present time. I assume from the fact that you have bought twelve hundred of our records that it is the cylinder records you refer to. It has been our aim to keep up in quality on the cylinder records, but the gradual change that you mention has been caused because of the demand of the public to the dealers for that kind of music. I think you will notice, however, if you will examine our latest lists that there will be less of this kind of stuff recorded.

As you are a phonograph enthusiast, it occurs to me to ask whether you have seen my latest Disc phonograph. This has the Diamond point reproducer and indestructible records. I have been working hard for three years to perfect this, and I think you would be surprised if you could hear the perfect reproduction of high class music. I will ask our Sales Department to send you a catalog of machines and records, and when you examine the latter, you will see the kind of music we are recording for this machine.

Thanking you for the frank and kind spirit of your criticisms, I remain

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

Hirek

Feb. 9, 1914.

Mr. H. P. Wykes,  
5 Northants Talking Machine Society,  
The Arcade Emporium,  
Northampton, England.

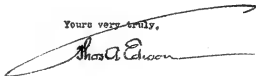
Dear Mr. Wykes:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 29th ultimo  
in regard to the Northants Talking Machine Society, and would say in  
reply that it gives me great pleasure to say that you may put my name  
down as Patron of the Society.

I am much gratified to learn that your society is  
making such fine headway, and also that you yourself have had such  
great success in selling machines.

Thanking you for all your good wishes, and assuring  
you of my reciprocation of the same for yourself and the society, I  
remain

Yours very truly,



Wired

February 11, 1916.

Samuel Insull, Esq., Pres.,

Commonwealth Edison Company,

Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Sammy:-

Would you consider having one of your men making an investigation as to desirability of your company going into the furnishing of power to privately owned trucks; the same as the Hartford Electric Light Company is now doing successfully.

I believe I will be able shortly to give guarantee as to depreciation of battery that will make it highly commercial.

I will be back from Florida about the middle of April.

Sincerely yours,

*Wm. C. Edwards*

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February 13, 1914.

Walter H. Miller, Esq.,  
79 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Walter:-

How about Ray's Disc?

How about ~~Ray's~~ ~~Disc~~?Is ~~Tolson~~ ~~idea~~ up?? For how long??

~~Ray's~~ ~~Disc~~. I understand Tolbear saw him  
and he will see us in New York and probably sing for  
the Disc. *and after hearing our disc he didn't have a chance  
for Contract with Vic "*

When do we get a record with that BIG ORCHESTRA  
EFFECT you showed on the experimental record.

Be sure to write Tosi to always keep his phone  
at 80 and not depend too much on the regulator.

Yours very truly,



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Feb. 13, 1914.

Mr. H. E. Dick,  
% The Seal & Fastener Co.,  
140 South Dearborn St.,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Dick:-

In reply to yours of the 7th instant let me say I can't find much of anything in regard to an understanding between us concerning business done with Storage Battery in England.

My recollection is that you were to form an English Company. Then when this could not be done, Morgan and Cassell were to form it; to which you agreed. This fell through because Cassell withdrew.

Now Monnot has formed a Company, but so far has done very little business, although I think he will in time. I am to get thirty cents royalty, but have received none yet. If Monnot comes across I will give you some of the royalty.

Yours very truly,

First

Feb. 14th, 1914.

Mr. C. H. Potter, General Secretary,  
The Young Men's Christian Association,  
Orange, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 6th instant to Mr. Edison asking for a special gift towards the purchase of a full size motion picture apparatus for the Young Men's Christian Association in Orange has been received. He requests us to say in reply that we have had thousands of such ~~from~~ from all over the United States, and we are obliged to excuse ourselves from complying therewith, as it would be simply ruinous if we were to attempt to make gifts of this kind.

Mr. Edison says, however, in this particular case, that we will make some concession to your Association when you are ready to purchase the apparatus. If you will call up Mr. Meadowcroft here on the telephone, he will tell you what can be done about this.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

**General Letterbook Series  
Letterbook, LB-097 (1914)**

This letterbook covers the period February-May 1914. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included are documents relating to the commercial and technical development of Edison's alkaline storage battery; the introduction of disc phonographs in Japan; and plans to reconstruct Edison's motion picture studio after a fire. There are also references to a lost phonograph recording of poet Alfred Tennyson; a letter to author Robert Grau regarding Edison's opinion of motion pictures; and a communication to Percival S. Hill of the American Tobacco Co. concerning restrictions on smoking at the West Orange laboratory. Other items pertain to Edison's reading habits and tastes, as well as his vacation with author and naturalist John Burroughs and industrialist Henry Ford.

The front cover is marked "T. A. E. Feb. 18, 1914 To May 20 '14." The spine is marked with similar information, along with the number "36." The book contains 717 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 15 percent of the book has been selected.

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*Hiram*

Dec. 18th, 1914.

Miss M. A. Branch,  
229 Prospect Street,  
Manchester, N. H.

Dear Madam:-

I am in receipt of your recent favor in regard to phonograph records of the poet "Tennyson", let me say in reply that we had some of these records some time ago, but in some unaccountable manner they have been unfortunately lost, and therefore we shall never be able to reproduce them. They were made a great many years ago when our business was not well organized like it is today, or we should probably have another story to tell.

Thanking you for all your kind words in regard to the phonograph, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*to*

*Hurst*

Feb. 18th, 1914.

Docteur Jean Lore,.  
323 West 57th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 14th instant to Mr. Edison  
has been received and its contents very fully noted.

We would say for your information that Mr.

Edison leaves for Florida on Saturday of this week to be gone  
about six weeks. He always hears artists himself before permit-  
ting them to make records for our phonograph, and as he is  
occupied day and night just now settling up matters before leav-  
ing for Florida, it will be impossible for him to take any steps  
towards hearing your trio at this time.

He expects to return about the middle of April,  
and if your artists are going to be in the City about that time or  
afterward you can communicate with us again, and we will see if  
some arrangement to hear them can be made.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.



First

Mr. Frederick A. Schaffer  
Babcock & Wilcox Co.  
85 Liberty St.  
N. Y. C.

acknowledgment of birthday  
congratulations.

Thos A Edison

PS Boiler Tubes fizz of scale.

2

Just<sup>20</sup>

Mr. Charles M. Schwab.  
South Bethlehem, Pa.

acknowledgment of birthday  
congratulations.

Shas A. Gison

S—  
Are you still carrying high pressure in  
your mental Gailer—

Σ

*First*

Feb. 18th, 1914.

Mr. Chauncey M. Depew,  
27 West 54th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Depew:

Allow me to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed letter of the 11th instant and to thank you for your congratulations on my birthday. I am deeply appreciative of your kind remembrance of this occasion. So far as I am concerned, it does not mean very much to me, as I find myself just as ambitious for work as ever.

Let me congratulate you on your own iron constitution. I don't see any reason why you should not turn the century mark yourself. Anyway that is my best wish for you together with continued health and happiness.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*First*

Feb. 10th, 1914.

Mr. G. M. Gregg,  
G. Gregg Music Store,  
Delphi, Indiana.

Dear Sir:-

It gives me much pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your message of congratulation on my birthday, and to thank you heartily for your kind remembrance of the occasion.

Your letter has been read with a great deal of interest, and I appreciate very fully the interest that you show in the business. Now in reply to your questions let me answer as follows.

(1) Victor records can be played on the Edison Disc machine by the use of a special attachment. Edison Disc records cannot, however, be played on the Victor machine.

(2) As to the cost of the highest priced records for disc and cylinder machines, let me say that I will ask our Sales Department to send you a catalog of both kinds, which will give the prices.

(3) As to the length of time which a Disc record will play, let me say that the 12 inch Disc, when we produce it, will play fifteen minutes, but at present we are not making them. Just now we are making only the 10 inch Disc records, and these play eleven minutes if you want both sides.

I trust that I shall hear of your loading up with a fresh stock of enthusiasm of the Disc machine and making some big sales in your territory.

Yours very truly

*Thomas A. Edison*

*First*  
*125*

Sir James Grant,  
% THE ROLLINGSTONE,  
Ottawa, Canada.

Feb. 18th, 1914.

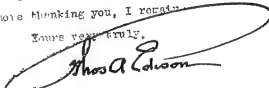
My dear Sir:-

It gives me much pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your message of congratulation on my birthday, and to thank you heartily for your kind remembrance of the occasion.

I am greatly interested in what you say about your discovery of prolonging life, and note by the copy of the resolutions attached to your letter that you have prepared a paper on this subject. I should be very glad indeed to get a copy of this paper if it is possible to do so. I am leaving for Florida on Saturday of this week, and must ask you to kindly advise my assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft, at this address, where a copy of your paper can be obtained, and he will take steps to get it and forward it to me at my Florida address.

Once more thanking you, I remain

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas Edison

*Worst*  
*701*

Feb. 1893, 1914.

Mrs. Isa Maud Ilson,  
3 Hotel Simton,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Ilson:

I want to acknowledge receipt of your very kind note of the 18th inst., and am very glad to learn that the "Boy's Life of Edison" has proven so useful to you in the admirable talks which I note you have been giving in various places.

Of course, I see the reports as they come in, and note that you have been quite busy and doing some good work with the Diamond-Dice.

I, too, have been exceedingly busy for many weeks past with a superabundance of work, which I am now trying to clean up as well as I can before Mr. Edison goes away.

With kindest regards and all good wishes, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Hildebourn*



Feb. 25th, 1914.

Mr. W. North Robins,  
600 Westcott Street,  
Syracuse, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 10th instant, which has been read with a good deal of interest, as it brings back many memories of the old electric lighting days some thirty years or more ago. I remember you and the circumstances that you mention, but have not seen you for many years. I trust the world has used you well, and that you are in good health and prospering as well as you could wish.

Yours very truly,



*Hiram*

Feb. 18th, 1914.

Mr. D. H. Winget, Editor,  
THE MERRY WAR,  
Clinton, Iowa.

Dear Sir:-

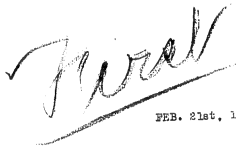
It gives me much pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your message of congratulation on my birthday, and to thank you heartily for your kind remembrance of the occasion.

Your letter has been read with a good deal of interest. Some of the ideas that you suggest for new things have already been worked on for some years past, but so far as I am personally concerned I have not time to take up anything more than what I already have on hand. I want to express my appreciation of your verses, which I consider very good. Unless you say otherwise, I am going to take the liberty of sending them on to our man who writes the Phonograph Monthly and let him use them if he wants to.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*





FEB. 21st, 1914.

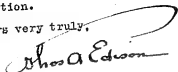
Major James Otis Woodward,  
Burgesses Corps,  
Albany, New York.

My dear Sir:-

I duly received your esteemed favor of the 10th instant informing me of the action of the Burgesses Corps in tendering me an election to life membership, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Anthony H. Brady.

Let me say in reply that I greatly appreciate the honor thus conferred upon me, and take pleasure in signifying my acceptance of the election.

Yours very truly,



*Frank*

FEB. 21st, 1914.

Mr. H. M. Seely,  
and Staff of  
Seely Office Appliance Company,  
114 Liberty Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

It afforded me very much gratification to receive your Report of Sales for the month of January, and to note the splendid results shown thereby. Enthusiasm and hustle appeared all the way through, and I want to congratulate and thank you all for the encouragement you have afforded me.

In addition to such a substantial birthday greeting as this, let me also express my sincere appreciation of all your good wishes to me for that occasion.

Yours very truly,

*John A. Brown*

*First*

Feb. 21st, 1914.

Mr. E. C. Barnes and Staff,  
Chicago,  
Illinois.

Gentlemen:-

It afforded me very much gratification to receive your Report of Sales for the month of January, and to note the splendid results shown thereby. Enthusiasm and hustle appeared all the way through, and I want to congratulate and thank you all for the encouragement you have afforded me.

In addition to such a substantial birthday greeting as this, let me also express my sincere appreciation of all your good wishes to me for that occasion.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*Direct*  
449

Feb. 21st, 1914.

Mr. Joe M. Chapple,  
The National Magazine,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Chapple:

Your favor of the 19th instant is at hand, and I wish to say in reply that I receive the Magazine regularly. I have five copies of your "Heart Songs", and have had every song sung, and many of them put on the new Disc phonograph. "Heart Songs" is a great book.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*



Feb. 20th, 1914.

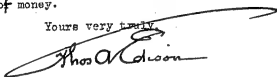
Mr. H. B. Clifford,  
Waldorf Astoria,  
5th Ave. & 34th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Clifford:

I am in receipt of your favor of the  
16th instant, the contents of which have been read with  
much interest.

I do not think you want to deal with  
Breitung. I certainly would not deal with that class of  
people for love of money.

Yours very truly,



*Frost*

FEB. 19th, 1914.

Punk & Wagnalls Company,  
354 Fourth Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Replying to your enquiry let me  
say that your new Standard Dictionary has a valued  
place in my library. I find it of excellent service.  
It is really very good.

Yours very truly,

*Shas A. Edison*



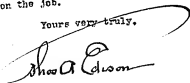
Feb. 19, 1914.

Mr. W. P. Francis,  
39 Boylston St.,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Francis:-

The birthday congratulations you sent me were greatly appreciated and I want to thank you for your kind remembrance of the occasion. It does me good to have a reminder that some of the old electric light boys are still on the job.

Yours very truly,



*First*

Feb. 28, 1914.

Mr. L. G. Gerson,  
John Wanamaker,  
Broadway & 9th St.,  
New York City, N. J.

Dear Mr. Gerson:-

Mr. Wolbeer has shown me your favor of the 17th  
instant to him. I regret very much to learn of Mr. Wanamaker's  
illness and of his inability to get out except in clear weather.

It is impossible for me to stop off in Philadelphia  
as we have accommodations booked clear through, but I wish you would  
kindly say to Mr. Wanamaker that if he can possibly come down in  
Florida, to our town of Fort Myers on the Gulf side, away from the  
Wall Street type of people, I will guarantee his health will be im-  
proved quickly.

Mr. Henry Ford and John Burroughs the naturalist  
will be with me, and we would show Mr. Wanamaker in that balmy cli-  
mate some of the mysteries of nature. We are all fishermen, bird  
and flower lovers and hope to get into the Everglades to see the  
great birds, or which there are myriads.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*



*Thirsk*

Feb. 18th, 1914.

Mr. H. L. Hotchkiss,  
The Webster  
40 West 45th Street,  
N.Y., New York.

Dear Mr. Hotchkiss:-

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 11th instant and am very glad indeed to hear from you. I remember you perfectly well and the contents of your letter bring back many old time memories.

Now in regard to the matter of diet, my suggestion to you is to cut down the amount you eat say 20% each month, eating everything you please. If your weight keeps going up, as it will from better nutrition, cut the diet down another 20%, and keep on until you just commence to lose weight, then eat just enough to keep your weight constant. It will take six or eight months to bring about an equilibrium, but when it has once been brought about, you will want to climb a tree or run a foot race.

Let me thank you for your kind birthday wishes. They are very much appreciated, as well as your courteous remembrance of the occasion.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Shoae*



Feb. 18th, 1914.

Mr. Walter B. Holland,  
59 Elmhurst Avenue,  
Highland Park, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Holland:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 17th instant, and note your desire to become associated with the company which will produce the light electric that Mr. Ford and I have talked about developing.

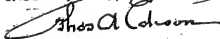
I think it is too early at this time to speak to Mr. Ford about you, but would suggest that you wait awhile until the electric wagon is further developed, then I shall have great pleasure in speaking to him about you.

I am just getting ready to go to my Florida home for a few weeks, and expect to start on Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Ford are going down with me, and undoubtedly we shall have plenty of opportunity to refer to the subject, although I am going to try and make it a rest trip and not talk much about business.

However, when the proper time comes, I shall not forget you.

With kind regards and good wishes, I remain

Yours very truly,





Feb. 20th, 1914.

Miss Helen A. Hayes,  
115 East 34th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Miss Hayes:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 7th instant enclosing tickets for the Concert of your pupils on March 10th.

As I start for Florida to-morrow morning with my family, to be gone about six weeks, it will be impossible for me to use them, and I will therefore return them, thanking you for your courtesy in sending them to me. I trust your concert will be a great success. I don't think the tremolo will be noticeable.

I have told Mr. Meadowcroft to send you a phonograph such as we send out for amateurs to make their own records. This will be accompanied by a supply of blanks, and you can make some experiments with your pupils, and see if you can use it successfully in your work. This machine will be loaned to you for an indefinite period of time.

Yours very truly,

  
J. A. Edison

*Kind*

Feb. 20th, 1914.

Mr. Hubert W. Harward,  
34 York Street,  
Ramsgate, England.

Dear Mr. Harward:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 5th instant, and wish to thank you for your congratulations on my birthday and also for your good wishes in regard to my welfare. Your courteous remembrance of the occasion is very much appreciated.

I regret to learn that the phonograph business has not flourished as you would like to have it, but I think better times are coming for all our dealers, as we expect to surprise you shortly in the phonograph line.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

*Free*

Feb. 20th, 1914.

Mr. A. de St. Chamas,  
6 Poplar Street,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 18th instant, and am very glad to hear from you after your absence, and am pleased to learn that you have had a nice trip through Japan.

In regard to the matter of the perfected phonograph and its introduction into Japan, our Foreign Department has already taken steps in this direction, and I doubt that we should be able to make any arrangements with you, the matter being already taken care of.

I have asked Mr. Edison in regard to giving you letters of introduction, as desired, but it is against his policy, as he never gives any such letters, and in this case he says that he must ask to be excused.

Trusting that you are in the enjoyment of good health, and with kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Wood*

*Hiram*

Feb. 20th, 1914.

Mr. Jacob Smith,  
Department of the Interior,  
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 9th instant to Mr. Edison  
was received and read by him with a good deal of interest.

The suggestion you make that he himself should  
appear in the talking motion pictures has many times been made  
before by various parties, but he has never been able to bring  
himself to the point of really doing it, as he balks immediately  
when the subject is presented.

Possibly we can find him in the proper mood  
sometime and will capture him for posterity.

Thanking you for your good words and kind  
interest, we remain

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*to him*



Feb. 1900, 1914.

Mr. Arthur Williams, President,  
Association of Edison Illuminating Cos.,  
25 Duane Street,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Williams:

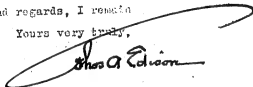
I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 15th instant asking me if I can name a time, after my return from the South, to meet you and other members of the Edison Association of Illuminating Companies at a presentation dinner.

Allow me to assure you in reply that I am deeply appreciative of the honor that you desire to show to me, but the fact is, I am growing more and more averse to attending dinners, as they generally result in about a week of suffering for me. In the past few years I have looked forward to dinners with a feeling somewhat akin to apprehension.

In the circumstances I am somewhat embarrassed, but to be quite frank would say that if I could be excused, I should indeed be very grateful. There is no doubt in my mind that you and my other friends will fully appreciate the fact that it is not by reason of any weakness of the spirit, but rather a weakness of the flesh which prompts me to write to this effect.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,





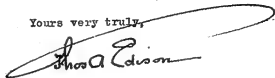
Feb. 20th, 1914.

Mr. Wm. Seaver Woods,  
The Literary Digest,  
44 East Twenty-third St.,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Woods:

In reply to your favor of the 17th inst.,  
let me say I believe that at the present time the  
Literary Digest prints the most valuable and interest-  
ing matter of any publication of similar character that  
I know of.

Yours very truly,







Feb. 26th, 1914.

Mr. Chas L. Alexander,  
% Dept. of Applied Mechanics,  
Pratt Institute,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 21st instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He has gone away to his winter home in Florida, where he will spend the next five or six weeks.

We would say in reply to your request that Mr. Edison has been obliged to suspend the visiting privileges of the Laboratory and Works for sometime to come. We are so very busy that we have found it a serious hindrance to our work to have parties of visitors going through the shops, and in accordance with Mr. Edison's instructions we shall be unable to comply with your desire.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.



Feb. 28th, 1914.

Mr. Brace Calvert,  
379 Hancock Street,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Calvert:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 23rd instant, and would say that I also felt a great deal of regret that I was obliged to be away from the Laboratory when Madame Calvert came to sing for Mr. Edison. It is very rarely that I am away, but once in a while it will so happen, and here is one of the opportunities that I have missed.

Now in regard to our making records of Madame Calvert's songs, let me say for your information that Mr. Edison said he was not quite ready at this time to take up these Folk Songs, but expected to do so a little later on, after he returned from Florida, which will be about the middle of April. Of course, it will take a week or two for him to clean up his accumulation of work, and then he will take up the subject of music again. There is no absolute certainty to the date or time when he will take up this matter of Folk Songs, but we shall bring the matter to his attention soon after his return.

*You might write me again before May 1st*  
Yours very truly.

49

March 5, 1914.

The Baker & Taylor Co.,  
37 East 17th Street.  
Union Square, North.  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Enclosed herewith find money order for fifty  
(\$50) cents for the publication "THE CRY OF LEISURE"  
which you sent to Fort Myers, Florida.

Kindly send the other publication "CULT OF  
INCOMPETENT" to Fort Myers, Florida, if received from  
the publisher not later than April 5th., sending the  
invoice for same to the Laboratory for examination.

Yours very truly,

*H. J. Kilgus*  
Secretary.



March 5th, 1914.

Mr. J. C. Hipple.  
Edison Lamp Works  
General Electric Company,  
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Hipple:

In the early part of last month Mr. Edison received a typewritten letter enclosing copy of a song made by one of your employees, Mr. Holl, which you thought might interest Mr. Edison. There was no name signed to the letter, but we rather thought that it might have come from you, so I am writing to ask whether this supposition is correct.

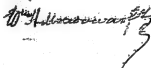
If it is, Mr. Edison wants me to thank you for having sent him a copy of this song, which he found very interesting reading.

He and his family have gone down to Florida for five or six weeks, and I hope that he will get the rest and recreation that he well deserves.

With kindest regards to you and your family,

I remain

Yours very truly.



158  
257

March 4th, 1914.

Mr. W. S. Mallory,  
Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
Stewartsville, N. J.

Dear Mr. Mallory:-

A day or two before Mr. Edison went away Mr. Eugene H. Grubb, of Carbondale, Colorado, who is known all over the world as the Potato King, called and had a talk with Mr. Edison. He came to deliver a message from Mr. Luther Burbank to Mr. Edison, and they had a fine time together. Mr. Edison suggested that Mr. Luther Burbank join the party down in Florida, and Mr. Grubb said that he would carry that message to Mr. Burbank and that Mr. Edison might probably see them both down there.

Mr. Grubb has written a book on the potato, and before he went away he said he would send me a copy and also one for you, as the Manager of Mr. Edison's farm up there. The books have been received, and I have sent yours to you by mail. I trust you will receive it safely. You can acknowledge it direct to Mr. Grubb if you so desire.

Yours very truly,

*First*  
521

March 6th, 1914.

Mr. Thomas C. Ballard,  
% Morrison, Plummer,  
210 West Washington Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor to Mr. Edison has been received. He has gone to Florida for a few weeks for rest and change, and therefore your letter cannot receive his attention until he returns.

Edward H. Johnson is still on deck and we believe is interested in electrical enterprises. His address is 20 Broad Street, New York City.

Yours truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*Edison*  
MAR 10 1914

Wired

March 9th, 1911.

Miss Helen Louise Essex,  
The Phonograph Company,  
229 So. Wabash Avenue,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Miss Essex:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor  
of the 3rd instant enclosing copy of your invitation card to  
the Edison Musicale at the Bohemian Club in Chicago on the  
first instant. This is very interesting, and I have no  
doubt but Mr. Edison will be glad to see it. I will send it  
down to him in my mail today.

Yours very truly,

W. H. McAdams

*First*  
*285*

March 9th, 1914.

Mr. Eugene H. Grubb,  
Carbondale,  
Colo.

Dear Mr. Grubb:

I have received from your publisher, Doubleday Page & Company, three copies of your book on the potato, one for Mr. Dolbeer, one for Mr. Mallory, the Manager of Mr. Edison's farm up at Stewartsville, N. J., and the other for myself.

Allow me to extend to you my warmest thanks for this copy of your valuable book, and I am sure that this is going to be a source of great deal of information and interest to me in reading the same. I have about ten acres back of my house, and perhaps I can take advantage of the secrets you are giving away in your book and grow some potatoes that will be worth while.

I trust you had a very pleasant trip home, and that you were able to see Mr. Burbank and induced him to go down to Florida to join the party down there. No doubt, if he goes you will go to, and I am sure that you will all have a glorious time together.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

-- *W. H. Burbank*



Hirsch

March 9th, 1914.

Mr. H. W. Hillman,  
General Vehicle Company, Inc.,  
Long Island City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Hillman:

Your favor of the 27th ultimo to Mr. Edison was received, and I sent it down to him in Florida, where he is staying for a few weeks at his Winter home.

I have just received your letter back from him with a memorandum to the following effect.

He wishes to thank you for the letter and the information contained therein. He says that he would like you to tell Mr. Wagoner that he, Mr. Edison, will risk another deal with another City on the same basis as Hartford if Mr. Wagoner so desires.

I expect Mr. Edison to return about the middle of April.

Yours very truly,

*H. Hirsch*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Hurst*

March 5th, 1914.

Mr. Paul A. Lovewell, Vice President,  
THE MERCHANTS' JOURNAL,  
Tokyo, Kansai.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 24th ultimo was received and has had due consideration.

We would say in reply that the reason that we are not quite ready as yet to supply records in greater quantity and variety is due to the great difficulties we have experienced in manufacturing them. We wish ask you to bear in mind that while Mr. Edison's Diamond Disc phonograph will soon be one of a type, it really creates a new epoch and we have experienced all the troubles that are incident to the pioneering of a new thing. The technical questions involved have been innumerable, and we have had trouble with our chemical processes, also with microscopic particles of dirt floating in the air, which would make their way into the surface of the records and so help to bring about rough scratchy surfaces. We have also had very great trouble in breaking in new help, and great delays in obtaining the special machinery that has been necessary for manufacturing these records.

We would say, however, that within the last few weeks we have increased our capacity 25%, and this increase will be continued with comparative rapidity.

As to artists of reputation, we have quite a large number on our list of singers and players, but no matter how great the reputation of a singer might be we try to secure only those who have really good voices.

Mr. Edison has been concentrating a great deal of his time and attention on the line of singers and of vocal music, but suddenly there came from all parts of the country a tremendous demand for dance music, and he has been obliged to switch his attention to that for awhile. However, he is still following up the matter of getting really fine voices and is scouring all Europe with this object in view. There will be no let up on his part to put on this Disc machine the very finest music that can be produced.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory

*First*  

---

*288*

March 9th, 1911.

Steinway & Sons,  
109 East 14th Street  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

You will probably remember that we have had some talks with you in the past about your *Stanley Steinway* piano upon the third floor of this building. It needs refelting, and your man came over to see us and told us it could only be done at the factory.

Mr. Edison is away in Florida and will not return for about four weeks. In the meantime we want to have this piano refelted and fixed up so that it will be back here on his return by the middle of April.

Will you please send for it, and when your wagon comes over, you had better let us have a piano for use here while this one is being fixed up at your factory, to be returned of course when ours is sent back to us.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*Wm. Steinway*  
*March 10, 1911*

174

March 11, 1914.

Standard Essence Co.,

Maywood, New Jersey.

Attention Mr. E. W. Preston, Sec.-Treas.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 24th ultimo regarding  
LITHIUM CARBONATE has been forwarded to Mr. Edison  
in the South, and I quote his reply thereto:-

"Delays on part of Mr. Ford has hold up  
starting new factory and we cannot state when Ford  
will be ready. Do not stock up until I get some  
assurance from Ford".

Yours very truly,

*H. J. Miller*  
Secretary.

P. S.-- We think it would be well if you would send  
with each drum a card, like sample, giving your analysis.

*Given*  
266

March 11th, 1914.

Mr. William E. Horne, Secretary,  
The Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
Stewartsville, N. J.

Dear Mr. Horne:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 10th instant, and have read the contents of same with a great deal of interest.

Please do not think for a moment that I intended to make any harsh criticism, for I did not. Your Office is usually very prompt with its report, and I am getting them right along now every day. All I wanted to do was to let you know that Mr. Edison was expecting daily reports from me, and I did not want your end to be behind the others.

I quite understand that at the beginning of the month there will be a little delay, but that is all right as we will always know the reason for it.

Yours very truly,

*W. J. Hall*



March 13th, 1914.

Mr. Edward H. Johnson,  
20 Broad Street,  
New York City.


Dear Mr. Johnson:

Yours of the 27th ultimo sent to Mr. Edison down in Florida was received by him, and he has sent it to me asking me to let you know that he was greatly pleased at the good reports you sent him in regard to the meeting at the Union League Club. He says the point you make about advertising in a lecture is a good one, and he has asked me to show your letter to Hutch and have him take note of your remarks on the subject. I have attended to this.

In regard to the matter of making a standard motor for Mr. Ford, Mr. Edison says that he will speak to Mr. Ford himself about this. The requirement is a motor of 36 volts, 35 amperes 3000 to 3500 revolutions per minute, and it must be light and of high economy.

He asked me to get from you the answer to your conundrum, but I believe I have it from Hutch, who says that a man has to get off his horse.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,  


*W. K.*  
311

March 18th, 1914.

Mr. A. Cobb  
88 Leonard Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Cobb:

Your favor of the 10th instant to Mr. Maxwell has been forwarded to me, together with a carbon copy of his reply to you.

I am going to forward the same to Mr. Edison, who is at present in Florida, enjoying a well earned vacation. I am very positive that Mr. Edison will be greatly interested in your letter. It is lovers of real music, like yourself, whom Mr. Edison has had in mind during all the years of strenuous work that he has put upon the recent development of his phonograph, and he is always greatly pleased to receive comments and suggestions from such.

I should be very glad if you would kindly inform me as to which particular Mass of Palestrina you refer to in connection with the Benedictus mentioned in your letter. If you have in mind any other selections from any of his works, Mr. Edison would be very glad if you would mention them to me, and I will get the music so that he may hear them when he returns from Florida.

Yours very truly,

*W. K.*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

257  
 289

March 20th, 1914.

Mr. W. S. Mallory, President,  
 The Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
 1133 Broadway, New York.

Dear Mr. Mallory:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th instant, enclosing letter from Mr. W. S. Saunders in regard to the Railway Storage Battery Car Company.

The report in regard to the Railway Storage Battery Car Company quoted in Mr. Saunders' letter is substantially correct. There are, however, two very important qualifications. One is that the exclusive right for the use of the Edison Storage Battery merely relates to its use for street cars, propelled upon rails, for carrying passengers. The other is, that while the term of the contract runs for ten years, it may be terminated in sixty days if the minimum amount of business required under the contract is not complied with. As you will see, these are important qualifications.

Possibly it might not be well to have any letters floating around that might tend to injure or hinder F. J. Lisman & Company's efforts. Mr. Edison's contract is with Lisman and not with the Railway Storage Battery Car Co. You may possibly think it diplomatic to call Mr. Saunders up on the telephone and give him the information I am giving you in this letter, rather than write to him. Whatever version he chooses to give his friend would be his and not ours. However, I am going to leave you to handle this matter in whatever way you see fit.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadowcroft

I return Mr. Saunders' letter.



218

March 23rd, 1914.

Mr. E. H. Grubb,  
Princeton,  
California.

My dear Mr. Grubb:

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 16th instant, and greatly regret to learn that your grip was stolen from you at the station when you were leaving New York. I have no doubt that it contained other articles which you also regretted to lose.

Of course, I shall be delighted to send you another copy of the book and the pamphlet which I handed to you when you were here. They are being forwarded to you under separate cover.

I am sure that Mr. Edison would greatly regret the inability of Mr. Burbank to go down and spend a while with him in Florida. It would have been a great source of enjoyment to both of them, I am very sure.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Thurs*

March 23rd, 1914

Mr. Henry J. Fuller,  
30 Church Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 20th instant to Mr. Poyer of the Edison Storage Battery Company has been forwarded to me for attention, as I usually take care of matters of this kind for Mr. Edison.

Let me say in reply that I am arranging with our Recording Studio to make an appointment with Mme. Gertrude Auld to go to the Studio and make a trial record for Mr. Edison. This will be attended to without delay.

Mr. Edison is at present in Florida but is expected to return about the middle of April, when the record will be sent over for him to hear and pass upon. He personally passes upon the voices of all singers before they are engaged to make records for the new Disc phonograph which Mr. Edison has recently put upon the market.

Yours very truly,

*D. H. Liebowitz*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Frank

March 26th, 1914.

Mr. John Ferrazi,  
64 E. Portland Avenue,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear John:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 24th instant and would say in reply that I have no positive information as to when the new Studio will be opened. I asked Mr. Hutchison a few days ago, and he said that he expected to start work there in two or three weeks. As I told you when you were here, I have nothing at all to do with this. It is Mr. Hutchison who is managing it, and I think that you had better write to him again.

Yours truly,

*Wink*

March 30th, 1914.

Mrs. J. R. Price,  
116 Seventh Street,  
Streator, Ill.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your favor, I beg to say that the reason you did not hear the surface sounds of the records in our Chicago place is that in a city there is a continuous buzzing noise, which renders the ear less sensitive to weaker sounds, but in a small town, in a private house on a quiet street the ear is very sensitive, especially at night, and the surface sounds would be heard more plainly.

These sounds are primarily due to factory dust and fine carbon from chimneys which gets into our mixture, but we are gradually eliminating these troublesome things. The snaps that you hear are due to various causes which we are investigating very closely, and are also eliminating as fast as possible.

There are enormous technical difficulties encountered in making this new type of record. I expect to overcome them all in time and produce far better reproduction of music than you have thus far heard on the Disc records which you have.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas G. Edison*

300

March 30th, 1914.

Mr. Chas. D. Stanford,  
The Elms,  
Ipswich, Mass.

My dear Mr. Stanford:

Referring further to our recent correspondence, let me say that I have sent your letter down to Mr. Edison in Florida, and have received it back from him with a memorandum to the effect that he cannot go into the enterprise you mention. When he owned the Lansden Company there was so much complaint from other manufacturers of trucks that he had to sell the concern and get out of it.

He says further in his memorandum, why do you not see the General Motors Company about this.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Meadows

*Wheat*

April 1st, 1914.

Mr. Fredrick L. Hoffman,  
% The Prudential Insurance Co.,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 31st ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received. He is away in Florida, taking a well-earned vacation, and I do not expect him back until the middle of April.

In his absence, I beg to say that we shall be very glad to have Prof. Farnam come over and visit our Laboratory and factory on Wednesday afternoon of next week. I would suggest that he ~~come~~ over about 2 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, so as to allow plenty of time to use things.

As Mr. Edison is away in Florida, a personal interview with him will not be possible.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Wheat*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

File

April 1st, 1914.

The MacMillan Company,  
64 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 19th instant to Mr. Edison, addressed to him at Menlo Park, New Jersey, was forwarded here to the proper address.

The book you mention "Progressivism and After", was never received. This might be accounted for by the fact that it was probably addressed to Menlo Park, New Jersey, and we believe this class of mail is not forwarded.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*Edison*

*First*

April 2nd, 1914.

Dr. H. Roberts,  
Belleville,  
Illinois.

Dear Dr. Roberts:

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 29th ultimo, which came as a surprise after so long a lapse of time.

I am afraid you have come to the wrong shop in regard to radiography. What I don't know about it would make a set of books sufficient to fill the New York Library. The fact of the matter is, I have never had any actual dealings with this material, and cannot be of the slightest help, unfortunately. We have made no experiments with it here at the Laboratory, and so there is no one around here who can help you out with regard to your lecture. I would suggest that you communicate with Mr. W. J. Hammer, West 46th Street, New York City. He can give you a good deal of information about it.

I am sorry to learn that you have had some trouble consequent upon the X-rays. While they are bad enough, you are fortunate in that they were not worse, and I am glad to learn that you are getting along pretty nicely now. I was fortunate to escape with only just a few minor burns. They are not handsome, but they do not give me much trouble.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. McDougall*



*W. H. Mason*  
511

April 6th, 1914.

Jas. Horsburgh, Jr.,  
 Gen'l Passenger Agent,  
 Southern Pacific R.R. Co.,  
 San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

I have received from you for Mr. Edison your favor of the 24th ultimo, also an article enclosed therewith, a book by Mr. John Muir, three pamphlets issued by your company, a cone and seeds.

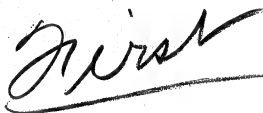
All of these I have placed in his desk, where he will see them on his return from Florida in about two weeks. I shall, of course, call his personal attention to them.

Some years ago I went out to the Pacific Coast by your line, but unfortunately it was a short business trip and I did not get time to go and see the giant trees, although I had a great desire to see them. It would appear that your company issued the three pamphlets for general distribution, and if such is the case I would like to be favored with copies of them, as I intend to take a vacation sometime and give my wife and self the pleasure of seeing these wonderful trees in person.

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Mason*  
 Assistant to Mr. Edison.



April 7th, 1

Mr. J. M. Priaulx,  
C. H. Ditson & Company,  
10 East 54th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Priaulx:

I am informed by Mr. Hayes, this morning, that the cylinder record which was made of the voice of Mr. Bromberg was passed upon by the Committee at the Recording Rooms, instead of having been sent over to Mr. Edison. This, I think, was a misunderstanding of our directions from the Laboratory.

I think it will perhaps be well for Mr. Bromberg to come over here and let Mr. Edison hear him in person when he returns from Florida. I expect him home in about two weeks, as soon as he has cleared off his accumulated matters, he will be ready to hear voice trials again. May I suggest to you that you drop me a line about this somewhere around the first of May.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,



Wick

April 3 1914

Dear

As you have resigned to go with  
Babson in New York to try your  
fortune, for no one that at  
any time within three years  
from date the Note is not a  
financial success, I will see  
that I am repaid what you  
lent at 10%

Wick

323

April 9th, 1914

Miss Ada F. Gardiner,  
THE LAFAYETTE,  
Portland, Me.

My dear Miss Gardner:

I received your favor of the 1st instant. If you do not always get prompt replies from me, you will know that it is because I am so exceedingly busy that I have to neglect my correspondence temporarily.

I am delighted to learn that the William Tell record was so satisfactory.

We have made several attempts to make records of the Barcarolle from "The Tales of Hoffman," but so far we have not succeeded in obtaining one that Mr. Edison has consented to pass upon favorably. We are still trying it, and as soon as one comes through I shall be very glad to let you know.

With kind regards and trusting that you are improving in health, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Wm. H. Garrison

*First*  
*541*

April 9th, 1914.

Mr. J. M. Hill,  
405 Sharon Building,  
San Francisco, Cal.

My dear Mr. Hill:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2nd inst., and recall our previous correspondence in regard to the matter of educational films.

This matter has taken a somewhat different turn since you communicated with me before. Mr. Edison is going very slow on this subject at the present time, as he has not been able to give as much of his personal attention to it as he wishes. It is developing slowly along a little different line than that upon which we started out, and I am very sure that for the present there will be an opening here for awhile, for others to make connections.

Mr. Edison has set his plans in mind for carrying out this work and developing his scheme, but the thing has not yet assumed a definite shape. The time is not yet right to make an application for the friend whom you mention.

Mr. Edison has not yet returned from Florida, but I expect him in about ten days or two weeks. So far as I know he is having a fine time, but he never says anything about it in his letters to me. All I hear on that subject is from members of the family. His letters to me are just simply full of business matters and nothing else.

I trust you are well and enjoying life, and with kindest regards, remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Ladd*

*First*

April 15. 1914.

W. T. Edison, Esq.,  
Sussex Avenue,  
Morristown, N. J.

Dear Will:-

Are you to pay the fees in connection with  
the patent on the "TOY GUN" which was recently granted  
to you and H. B. Palmer? If so, please let me know  
how to deduct it from your check, and have Mrs. Edison  
O.K. it.

Yours very truly,

*H. B. Palmer*  
Secretary.

First

April 18th, 1914.

Mr. Halsey Hammond,  
1121-25 Bedford Avenue,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Hammond:-

I must ask you to kindly pardon the delay in replying to your esteemed favor of the 9th instant. During Mr. Edison's absence in Florida, I have been kept exceedingly busy, it being my duty to keep in touch with him every day and keep him posted about affairs at the Laboratory and Works.

I am more than willing to do anything that I possibly can for you or your son, but in this case I do not see any possibility of making such an arrangement as you desire. I find by experience that most people are under a misconception as to the practical part of our organization here. While it is true that Mr. Edison has a Laboratory and carries on a great deal of experimental work, the men who are employed here are all specialists and experts in different lines of work. Since Mr. Edison went out of active touch with electrical matters some years ago, there is not much done here in the way of engineering, except in regard to shop practice or in such special experiments as Mr. Edison may have on hand at this time.

Mr. Edison has been applied to a great many times to bring in college students during the Summer months, but he has invariably declined to do so on the ground that it really interferes with his active work, and because every man that he has around the place has specific duties which are laid out before him according to his experience or expertness in various lines. If there was the slightest prospect of changing Mr. Edison's policy in this regard, I should be only too glad to broach him on the subject and try to make some arrangement in regard to your son.

I am going to make a suggestion to you, although I do not know whether anything will result from it. At the Edison Lamp Works of the General Electric Company, Harrison, New Jersey, there is a technical engineering department of which Mr. John W. Howell is the head. I do not know

✓  
Mr. Halsey Hammond,  
Page -2-  
April 18th, 1914.

whether or not they are open to any such arrangement as this, but if you wish you can write to Mr. Howell, and tell him that you are a friend of mine. I am not sure whether you will accomplish anything or not, but anyway it is worth the trial.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours sincerely,  
*Longfellow*



*First*  
*498*

APRIL 20th, 1914.

Mr. S. H. Clark,  
% The University of Chicago,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 7th instant to Mr. Edison was received and sent down to him in Florida where he has been taking a vacation for the past few weeks. I have received a memorandum from him this morning asking me to reply to your letter to the following effect.

He says the Comma ~~was~~ inserted in the Codification of the law on patents. The clerk who copied the Codified laws put in a comma. This was about thirty six years ago. The comma was inserted in the wording that concerned the expiration of the American patent at the time the foreign patent expired.

Yours very truly,

*A. H. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

50

April 20th, 1914.

Mr. Joe M. Chapple, Editor,  
The National Magazine,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Chapple:

Your favor of the 9th instant to Mr. Edison at Fort Meyers, Florida has been forwarded by him to me. He wonders whether you mean Ada Rehan, who has been a favorite actress with New Yorkers for many years. We never heard of her doing any singing, but Mr. Edison wishes me to find out from you whether it is Miss Ada Rehan that you refer to in your letter.

If so, and she is still living, we will see about getting a trial record. Will you please let me know at your early convenience whether this is the lady you refer to.

With kind regards to Mrs. Chapple and yourself,

I remain

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

April 20th, 1914.

Mr. Thos. N. Nelson,  
409 - 9th Street,  
Sparks, Nevada.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 6th instant to Mr.

Edison ~~was~~ forwarded to him in Florida, where he has been  
spending a few weeks at his Winter home.

We have received your letter back from  
him with a memorandum as follows:

"We had an adjustable stop placed on the first  
lot of our Disc phonographs that were sent out,  
but customers never took the trouble to set them,  
and we adopted the regular stop."

We return your Blue Print herewith.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

405  
486

April 20th, 1914.

Mr. John A. Stewart, Jr.,  
45 William Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I received your esteemed favor a few days ago, which was read with a great deal of interest, and I assure you it gives me a great deal of pleasure personally to learn that the Edison Diamond Disc phonograph has proved to be such a source of gratification to you. I have no fear of your pleasure diminishing, as Mr. Edison is constantly working to make the machine and records more and more perfect.

I have just received from him the letter that you wrote to him on the 7th instant, which I sent down to Florian. He wishes me to thank you for your kind interest and to say to you that the wood horn is not generally good for music. It seems to be impossible to prevent its "blurring" out on low notes when it is in resonance.

He says that he will give instructions to carry out your suggestion about the Tangos, and in accordance with his directions I am going to take the matter up with the Manager of the Recording Studio.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. S. Healey*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

April 21st, 1914.

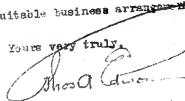
Mrs. Theodore F. Horst,  
15 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 16th instant has been received, and copies of your two story books have also come to hand.

I have glanced over these books, and it seems to me that they contain suitable material for good phonograph records. It is a source of much gratification to me to have you express your preference for recording these on my new Disc Phonograph, and I have instructed the Manager of our Recording Studio to communicate with you and your publishers in regard to making a test record with a view of discussing the question as to whether we can make suitable business arrangements for this work.

Yours very truly,



First

April 21st, 1914.

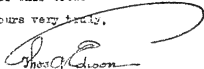
Mr. Joseph E. Dodson,  
901 Association Bldg.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Dodson:

I have just returned from Florida, and your favor of the 17th instant is before me. Your little book on birds and bird houses was received. It came to hand after Mr. Ford and Mr. Burroughs had left Florida. I read it and enjoyed it greatly, and I thank you very much for sending it to me.

I think that both Mr. Ford and Mr. Burroughs would like to have a copy of this book.

Yours very truly,



260

April 21st, 1914.

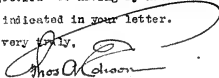
Mr. Henry Olerich,  
2219 Larimore Ave.,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 17th instant,  
enclosing copy of reply to Sir Oliver Lodge's Inaugural  
Address as President of the British Association for the Ad-  
vancement of Science has been received and read with a great  
deal of interest.

I think it is a fine "reply", and  
would say that I have no objection to having my name associa-  
ted with the other names, as indicated in your letter.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas A. Edison

*First*  
*578*

April 22nd, 1914.

Mr. C. E. Goodwin,  
The Phonograph Co.,  
229 So. Wabash Avenue,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 17th instant, enclosing a letter from Mrs. Henrietta Wien of your city, making inquiry about certain records.

Let me say in reply that I have made inquiry out in the factory and find that the working moulds of "La Paloma" will be ready May 1st, and of "The Rosary" on April 24th.

We have not listed any selection by the name of "Longing for Home". I am inclined to think that Mrs. Wien refers to the selection called "Heimweh", which in the German language means Longing for Home. If this is the one, we have it in stock on hand. Catalogue number is 80073.

Trusting you are well and with kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*H. H. Hall*



*First*  
*697*

April 22nd, 1914.

Houghton Mifflin Company,  
4 Park Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 16th instant, in regard to two books by Mrs. Theodore P. Borst, together with copies of these books. I have also received a letter from Mrs. Borst on the subject of making phonograph records of stories.

So far as I can form an opinion from reading these books, they ought to provide acceptable material for making phonograph records, and I have written to Mrs. Borst, telling her that I have asked the manager of our recording studio to communicate with her as to making a test record with a view of the possibility of making some business arrangement, based upon the success of the same.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

435

April 22nd, 1914.

Mr. Robert Underwood Johnson,  
327 Lexington Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On my return from Florida, I find your favor of the 11th instant on my desk.

In reply, let me say that while I greatly appreciate the compliment you pay me in asking me to become one of the Founders of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, I cannot see my way clear to send you an acceptance. The fact is, my business interests and experimental work have grown to such large proportions, that I am greatly desirous of concentrating all my attention on these things, which concern me so closely, and of withdrawing from all affairs of a public nature.

Allow me to extend to you and your associates my thanks for your courtesy in considering my name in this connection.

Yours very truly,

Thomas Edison

454  
528

April 22nd, 1914.

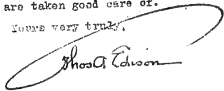
John Stewart, Jr.,  
45 William Street,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Mr. Meadowcroft has shown me your letter to him of the 14th instant, and I have been much gratified to learn how much pleasure you have derived from your disc phonograph. After working hard for many years to attain a high ideal in the reproduction of music, it affords me a peculiar pleasure to learn that I have succeeded in appealing to the taste of discriminating lovers of good music. Therefore, your letter is very encouraging to me.

It occurs to me that possibly you might like to run over some day and take a look around the Laboratory. If so, we shall be glad to have you come over, and if you wish, to bring a friend with you. You can telephone to Mr. Meadowcroft in advance and he will see that you are taken good care of.

Yours very truly,

A large, fluid handwritten signature of Thomas A. Edison, written in dark ink. The signature is cursive and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Private

April 24th, 1914.

The Casein Manufacturing Co.,  
Hanover Bank Building,  
Pine and Nassau Streets,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 20th instant, asking whether Mr. Edison has completed his experiments with Casein has been received. He requests me to say in reply that the thing he wanted to do he finds cannot be accomplished by Casein, and therefore we shall not be in the market for any supply of this material at this time.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*Edison*



April 24th, 1914.

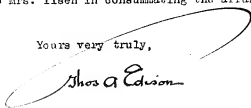
Miss Alice Adele Folger,  
1038 Pine Street,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Miss Folger:

On my return from Florida, I find your favor  
of the 14th instant on my desk.

The contents of your letter affords me much  
pleasure, and I wish to extend my thanks to you for your  
kind assistance to Mrs. Ilse in consummating the arrangement  
mentioned.

Yours very truly,



426

Apr. 25, 1914.

Mr. Harry V. Atkinson,  
1517 Spruce Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 22nd instant was received and  
shown to Mr. Edison.

He wishes me to say that if you are willing to  
come on trial at ninety dollars a month on Research work and  
Experimenting, you may come as soon as you like.

Yours very truly,

*H. H. H. H. H.*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

448

Apr. 25, 1914.

Prof. S. H. Clark,  
The University of Chicago,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant, but am afraid it will be some time before Mr. Nelson will be able to give any attention to the matter.

He has just returned from the South and not only is there a vast amount of accumulated work before him, but he has entered upon a minute investigation of some very important subjects, and has already begun to work day and night again. He left the Laboratory this morning about 8 o'clock to go and get breakfast, after working all night.

His present investigations will require some weeks of work, and in the meantime it is our hope to hold back any matters that are not of the most urgent importance.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Woodcock*  
Assistant to Mr. Nelson.





Wheat

Apr. 27, 1924.

Mr. Hans Keenan,  
 & Mr. Thomas A. Edison,  
 Fort Myers, Florida.

Dear Sir :-

In the basket on the table which Mr. Edison used  
 for writing upon while he was there the last few weeks, there is a  
 small device made up of a few pieces of tin. He left it there in  
 the basket. He wants you to please pack it carefully and send it  
 to me by express.  
 Here is another matter-

Mr. Edison wants me to send you the enclosed package  
 of seeds he has received from California. They are pine tree seeds.  
 and he wishes you to plant them in the garden and exercise great care  
 in trying to raise them.

Yours very truly,

*H. H. H. H. H.*  
 Assistant to Mr. Edison

Wick

April 27th, 1914.

Mr. O. P. Austin, Sec.,  
National Geographic Society,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On my return from Florida I find your favor  
of the 23rd ultimo, and have signed the nomination  
blank which you will receive in a separate letter  
from my Assistant.

Let me say that my two favorite magazines  
are the Literary Digest and the National Geographic  
Magazine. The subject matter and the photography  
in the latter is far better than in any publication  
that I know of.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

*Frank*

April 27th, 1914.

Mr. W. H. Atkins,  
Edison Electric Illuminating Co.,  
39 Boylston St.,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Atkins:

Some weeks ago, Billy Dee brought into the library here a framed picture of myself taken many years ago up at the Concentrating plant - Billy told me that you had sent this to me with your compliments.

I want to thank you for your kind thoughtfulness in presenting this picture to me. My wife also appreciates it greatly and has asked to have the picture sent up to the house.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

195

April 27th, 1914.

Mr. Thos. C. Ballard,  
Morrison, Plummer & Co.,  
310-314 W. Washington St.,  
Chicago, Illinois.

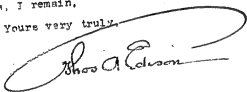
Dear Sir:

On my return from Florida, I find your favor  
of the 25th instant among the mail that has been kept  
until I came back to the Laboratory.

I am glad to hear from you after so many years,  
also to learn that you have enjoyed my new Disc phonograph  
so much. As you were one of the pioneers in exhibiting  
the old tin foil machines in 1878 you will realize the  
development that has taken so many years of hard work.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Thos A Edison". The signature is written over the typed name and extends to the right.

First

April 27th, 1914.

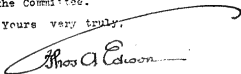
Mr. Court Freshel,  
603 Boylston St.,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have returned from Florida and find your  
favours of the 10th and 27th ultimo awaiting my attention.

In reply I beg to say that you may use my name  
as one of the Committee in connection with the memorial  
to be erected to the memory of Thomas Paine. I am too  
busy to give you any of my time on this matter, but you  
may use my name in addition to the others mentioned in  
your letter, as a member of the Committee.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

2760  
 633

April 29th, 1914.

Deutsche Edison Akkumulatoren Co.  
 Brunthelmerstrasse 35-36,  
 Berlin, N. 20,  
 Germany.

Gentlemen:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 7th inst., and to thank you for the statement of royalties on batteries sold by you, as well as for the check on the National Bank of Commerce, New York, amounting to \$519.92 in payment thereof.

Under my agreement with you I am entitled to royalties on all storage battery cells manufactured by you during the life of the agreement. In my letter of October 30, 1913 I made the concession of not requiring you to pay royalty on any cell prior to its shipment from your factory, said concession being made, as set forth in said letter, without prejudice to my right to receive the minimum royalty provided for in the agreement. Therefore, I am at this time entitled to royalties on all cells which were shipped from your factory during the first quarter of 1914 whether such cells were actually sold or whether they were shipped on consignment. I am inclined to think that you have overlooked this point, inasmuch as the check you sent me covers only cells actually sold.

You will also notice that under the terms of the agreement you should send me a statement of all cells manufactured by you during each quarter year, and in view of the concession made in my letter of October 30, 1913, I should say that each statement should give full information regarding all cells manufactured by you during each quarter year, and also regarding all cells shipped from your factory during each quarter year.

I have credited you with the check for \$519.92, which I have applied on account of royalties due me for the first quarter of the year 1914, and shall be obliged if you will now send me a statement of cells shipped by you on consignment, together with your check for the royalties due to me thereon.

Will you kindly send us a copy of your catalogue of cells for our use in verifying statements.

Yours very truly,

Charles Edison

First

April 29th, 1914.

Mr. Geo C. Holt,  
The Holt Manufacturing Company,  
50 Church Street,  
New York City.

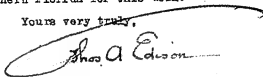
Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 25th inst.  
asking whether I ~~can~~ use ~~one~~ of your Caterpillar machines  
down at my place in Florida.

Let ~~me~~ say in reply that I have no open land  
there. It is all trees, which I want to retain.

Have you ever had your Caterpillar used for  
the pulling out of the Florida scrub palms? If not, there is  
a large field in Southern Florida for this work.

Yours very truly,

J. A. Edison

I have seen the picture, its good.

E

211

April 29th, 1914.

Hon. Gifford Pinchot,  
1212 Real Estate Trust Bldg.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Pinchot:

On my return from Florida after an absence of several weeks I find on my desk your favor of the 4th ultimo in regard to using my influence with Mr. Henry Ford to have him come out for the Progressive Party.

Let me say in reply that while I have every wish to forward the interest of the Party, I cannot see my way clear to do what you ask me to do, as I regard it as too delicate a matter for me to approach Mr. Ford about.

Yours very truly,

Wm. A. Edison



397

April 30th, 1914.

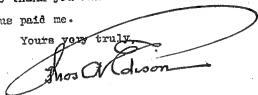
Mr. George M. Kaltschmidt,  
Clerk of Board of Trustees of  
East San Diego School District,  
East San Diego, Calif.

Dear Sir:-

On my return from a few weeks' vacation in Florida I find your favor of the 30th ultimo informing me that the Trustees have given my name to one of your new Public Schools, in accordance with a request made by the children of your School District.

Allow me to express to the Trustees and to the children my appreciation of the honor they have thereby conferred upon me and to thank you all for the sentiment implied in the compliment thus paid me.

Yours very truly,



Mrs. A. J. Wilson

311  
637

May 1st, 1914.

Mr. A. Kobb,  
Chas. Chipman's Sons,  
88 Leonard Street,  
New York.

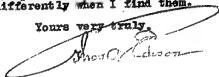
Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 28th ultimo has been brought to my attention, and I would say that we have on hand a lot of records made for us by Bori, Destinn and Martinelli, which will be issued gradually.

During the years I have spent in developing my disc phonograph, the one standard in my mind has been that it should be the medium through which high class music only should be recorded by artists of real merit. Innocently enough, I assumed in the beginning that high class artists who, generally speaking, talk much about their love for their art, would gladly join hands with me and for a fair or even extravagant compensation would make records whose reproduction would do justice to their voice and art. I have been disillusioned, and find by experience that with almost all artists of either real or press-agent reputation it is money, and money only, that counts. Although we have paid our artists large sums, they have in some cases thrown us over for a little more money offered by companies whose strongest advertising point is a list of names.

I am constantly on the look out for artists of real merit, and with past experience in view am arranging matters a little differently when I find them.

Yours very truly

  
Charles Chipman

Wick

May 5th, 1914.

Messrs. Keenan & Keenan,  
225 Powers Building,  
Rochester, N. Y.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 30th ultimo to Mr. Edison was received, and he wishes us to say in reply that at one time Williard C. Greene was employed in the Laboratory, but he has not been with us for more than a year past.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*Filed*

May 5th, 1914.

*663*

Mr. Edwin W. Preston,  
Standard Essence Co.,  
Maywood, N. J.

Dear Mr. Preston:

I am sorry to be compelled to make a fruitless report to you, after all. We found the letter from the German Company, but it did not give the name of the concern from whom they had been buying their Lithia. It simply says that they have bought their Lithia from the same concern which had been supplying it to them right along. Evidently Mr. Edison had an impression that the name of the concern was given, but it was not.

I am sorry that I cannot give you just the information that you want.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

May 5th, 1914.

Mr. Frank J. Sprague,  
165 Broadway,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Sprague:

Your favor of the 2nd instant enclosing a letter from Prof. Karapetoff came to hand. These letters have been laid before Mr. Edison, and he wants me to say to you that he does not want to put out piano records yet, as he thinks that the technique has not reached the point of sufficient perfection to make a good piano record. He wishes me to say, however, that he is constantly experimenting on this line and hopes shortly to be able to record the piano perfectly.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

572

May 5th, 1914.

Mr. D. J. Walker,  
2301 Ridge Avenue,  
Phila. Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 4th instant in regard to a reproducer to play Edison disc records on Victor or Columbia machines has been received. We would say in reply that Mr. Edison has no desire or intention to make reproducers of this kind, and while he thanks you for the opportunity of making one according to your sketch, he will not avail himself of the same for the above reason.

Yours very truly,  
Edison Laboratory.

Just

May 8, 1914.

My dear Ferguson:-

What is the matter with your Walker  
truck people? They own the Storage Battery Company  
\$30,808.81 since January 1914.

They won't answer our letters; please  
stir them up.

With kindest regards I am,

Very truly yours,

*Charles F. Johnson*

Louis A. Ferguson, Sec.  
Second Vice-President  
Commonwealth Edison Co.  
120 West Adams Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Trust

May 6th, 1914.

Mr. Albert Mildenberg,  
36 West 77th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 24th ultimo, in which you state your desire to have a phonograph record made of the complete opera score of your new opera "Adrienne", let me say that it would be too expensive a matter to record the whole opera, including recitatives, incidental music, etc. It might come within reasonable bounds to record all the Arias, duetts, trios, quartets, etc., and as to this I would suggest that you go down to our Recording Rooms, #79 Fifth Avenue, New York, and talk the matter over with Mr. Walter H. Miller, the Manager there, who will report to me the results of your discussion.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. A. Edison.*



233  
668

May 5th, 1914.

Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard,  
The New York Evening Post,  
20 Vesey Street,  
New York City.

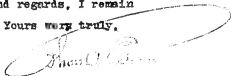
Dear Mr. Villard:-

I have received your favor of the 30th ultime, together with copy of your previous letter which was received during my absence in Florida.

Let me say in reply that I have put this matter up to our Advertising Department several times, but they have always said that they could use the appropriation to great advantage. However, the next time we make an appropriation, I will insist on the Evening Post getting a share of the advertising.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,





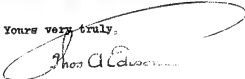
May 5th, 1914.

Mr. Edwin R. Weeks,  
604 New Nelson Bldg.,  
Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Mr. Weeks:

I have received your favor of the 30th ultimo, and am glad to hear from you. The clipping you enclose from the Kansas City Star of April 19th, illustrating one of my earliest dynamos used by you in Kansas City, brings back a host of recollections of those hustling days, thirty four years ago, when there was a busy bunch of us nursing along the infant art that has since grown to such large proportions. I am pleased to see that you are still in the game, and hope you have many years of activity before you.

Yours very truly,



562

May 7th, 1914.

Mr. J. M. Dimmick,  
127 N. Sheldon Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 5th instant has been received. In reply we beg to say that we should be only too glad to give you the information that you ask for if it were obtainable. The assay of the ore which your father sent to Mr. Edison was made over 30 years ago, probably at the Menlo Park Laboratory, and no one knows at this date where the old records are. Many of them have been destroyed, and it would be the work of months to try and hunt up the information you want and in all probability it could not be found. Mr. Edison has had several laboratories since that time, and his papers have been moved about a number of times. Consequently, it would be like hunting for a particular grain of sand on the sea shore.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

May 7th, 1914.

Mr. Robert Grau,  
53 Elm Avenue,  
Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Grau:

I received your favor of the 25th ultimo, in regard to the new book upon which you are engaged. Let me say in reply that I believe it is a great mistake to show the public how motion pictures are made. It destroys the illusion and will result ultimately in the loss of immense sums of money to the moving picture industry.

I have subscribed for two copies of your new book "The Theatre of Science", and have sent the subscription paper to my secretary with instructions to forward a check therewith.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison



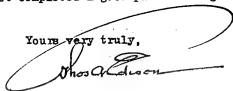
May 7th, 1914.

Mr. Calvin W. Rice, Secretary,  
The American Society of Mechanical Engineers,  
#29 West 39th Street,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Rice:

I duly received your favor of the 15th ult.,  
in regard to the application of Mr. H. H. M. Kammerhoff,  
and would say in reply that I will stand sponsor for him.  
Mr. Kammerhoff has just completed a good piece of engineering work for me.

Yours very truly,



First

May 9th, 1914.

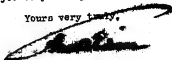
Mr. Thomas H. M. Carter,  
President, Public Service Corporation,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Mr. M. Carter:-

I am sure you believe in reciprocity. My  
Companies purchase a great deal of "juice" from yours, and my  
employees have handed over a large number of nickels to your  
trolley lines for many years. Why cannot you use my cement in  
your new terminal work?

May I send our Vice President, who has charge  
of cement sales, to talk to you or your representative?

Yours very truly,



556

May 8th, 1914.

Mr. A. Kabb,  
4 Chas. Chipman's Sons,  
225 Leonard Street,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

On reading your favor of the 6th instant, which I found very interesting, I notice that you are very much in sympathy with my ideas about singers. I have been so much misunderstood on this subject, that it is a real relief and pleasure to me to receive a letter showing that my ideas are appreciated by some real lover of music.

I am working hard on the manufacturing technique of the records, and as soon as I get things fixed to my satisfaction I intend recording Beethoven, Brahms and the best symphony and chamber music.

Yours very truly,

Edison

Hurst

May 12th, 1914.

Mr. T. F. Elliott,  
W. U. Tel. Company,  
195 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison requests us to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 9th instant, and also of three copies of the song entitled "I Kissed Her in My Dreams". He has sent this up to the Music Department here at the Laboratory, and as soon as he gets time will have one of our singers sing it for him to see whether it is available for the phonograph. As to this he will advise you later.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

W.H.



Trist

May 13th, 1914.

Mrs. Belle Hendey Evans,  
Fort Myers,  
Fla.

Dear Madam:-

Mrs. Edison has forwarded to the Laboratory your favor to her of the 22nd ultimo in regard to introducing Miss Elizabeth Trabue of New York City.

We would suggest that you ask Miss Trabue to call at our Recording Department, 379 Fifth Avenue and see Mr. Walter H. Miller, the Manager there, who will take a cylinder record of a voice trial by Miss Trabue and send it over for Mr. Edison to hear and pass upon. If Miss Trabue will present the enclosed letter to Mr. Miller, the matter will receive proper attention.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Miller*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

495

May 12th, 1914.

Mrs. Jennie Ross Standart,  
N. Boulevard,  
College Pointe,  
Long Island, N. Y.

Dear Madam:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 9th instant, in regard to making an appointment for you to come here and make a voice trial for Mr. Edison.

Let us say on Friday of this week at 2:30 P. M., or if that date does not suit you let it be Monday or Tuesday of next week at the same time. Please notify me what day you will be here.

The best way to come here is by the Lackawanna Railroad, leaving the train at Orange, then walking up one block to the Main Street and taking a trolley for West Orange, which will let you off right at the Laboratory door.

Yours very truly,

*W. A. Macaboway*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

496

May 12th, 1914

Mr. Samuel Wieder,  
% Leon Mann Company,  
906 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 9th inst.,

I beg to say that I cannot make appointments for Saturday  
afternoons.

Miss Eisenberg may come here on Friday  
afternoon at 3 o'clock, if convenient. If this time is  
not convenient for her, you ~~can~~ call me up on the telephone  
(908 Orange), and we will make another appointment.

The best way to come is by the Lackawanna  
Railroad, leaving the train at Orange. Then walk up to the  
Main Street, take a trolley for West Orange, and that will  
let her off right at the Laboratory door.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Edwards*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Fiver

May 13th, 1914.

Mr. Weld Arnold,  
Butley,  
New Jersey.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 8th instant, and note your question in regard to the seventeen hundred candle power, nitrogen-filled, tungsten-filament lamp. You ask why it must be kept in a vortical position when lighted, and I would say for your information that the tungsten volatilizes in the gas and goes upward and deposits on the glass. *and thus stops loss of light*

Yours truly,

*Thomas Edison*

450  
673

May 14th, 1914.

Mr. William H. Carmint,  
Harberth,  
Pa.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 12th instant, and have spoken to Mr. Edison about making an appointment for you to come over here to make a voice trial. He has not been making any appointments lately because he has had such an immense amount of important work on hand that required his personal attention and kept him busy day and night. It will be uncertain when he could make a definite appointment, and he suggests that you go to our New York Recording Rooms, #79 Fifth Avenue, New York City and see the Manager, Mr. Walter H. Miller, who will take a trial cylinder record of your voice and one of your songs and send it over to Mr. Edison so that he may hear it and pass judgment upon it.

As you are some little distance from New York, it might be well for you to communicate with Mr. Miller by mail in advance of your going to New York in order that you may make an appointment for the purpose of making this trial. In your letter you ~~was~~ state you have a note from me, or, better still, it might be well to send him this note so that he will know what kind of a record to make for Mr. Edison.

I presume it is unnecessary to state the fact, but we always do it to prevent misunderstandings, that we do not pay the

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Mr. William H. Carmine,  
Page -2-  
May 14th, 1914.

expenses of singers going to our Recording Rooms to make  
trial records.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

May 13th, 1914.

Mr. Chas. R. DeBevoise, President,  
Chas. R. DeBevoise Company,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 11th instant, and would say in reply that it is impossible to bring about reforms suddenly when men have formed certain habits. I think beer should have its alcohol reduced to 2% from 3-1/2 to 4%, which is what it now contains, generally speaking. I think that strong liquors should be abolished. Then, in the course of twenty or thirty years hence reduce the percentage of alcohol in beer to 1-1/2 %, and drunkenness will practically cease to exist.

The newspaper item was not correct in regard to the reading of the signs. Our signs in the Laboratory read as follows: "The smoking of cigarettes is prohibited in this Laboratory".

Yours very truly

  
Chas. R. DeBevoise

*First*

May 14th, 1914.

Brother Joseph Dutton,  
Kalaheo,  
Molokai, T. H.

Dear Sir:-

On my return from a few weeks vacation in Florida, I find that I am indebted to your kind thoughtfulness for a beautiful plaque made of Koa, which has been made up and forwarded to me by the Hawaiian News Company, Ltd. at your request.

I want to express to you my appreciation of your courtesy in sending me this unique and beautiful gift, and to thank you for the same.

I am not quite sure whether or not I acknowledged the receipt of the good wishes you extended to me on my sixty seventh birthday. If I did not, allow me to thank you now for your kind remembrance and all the good wishes you expressed for my welfare.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Dutton*



357

May 14th, 1914.

Hawaiian News Co. Ltd.,  
P. O. Box 684,  
Honolulu, T. H.

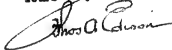
Gentlemen:-

On my return from a few weeks vacation in Florida I find your favor of March 4th and also the beautiful plaque made of Koa, which you have had made up and sent to me at the request of Brother Joseph Dutton.

Allow me to compliment you on the beauty of the workmanship displayed in making this plaque, and to thank you for your kindness and courtesy in carrying out the wishes of Brother Dutton in the making and sending of the same to me.

I have written a letter of acknowledgment to Brother Dutton, and enclose the same herewith, asking you to kindly correct the address if necessary and forward it to him.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. A. Edson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

First

May 14th, 1914.

Internationale-Hindustrie-Ausstellung  
VIII., Rakóczi-ut 55,  
Budapest, Hungary.

Dear Sir:-

I have been directed by Mr. Edison to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th ult., and to advise you that Mr. Edison is not disinclined to accept, but before deciding, he wishes to inquire into a few points through Mr. Thomas Graf, Berlin, who is at present here, and who will call on you soon after his arrival in Europe towards the end of this, or beginning of next month.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas Edison*

Over

Mar 12th, 1914.

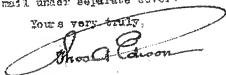
Mr. Charles Eiley Hall,  
New York & London Press Assn. Inc.,  
118 West 25th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 5th instant in regard to your Association's forthcoming work "American Banking Financial Achievements", and beg to say that you may enter my subscription, for one copy of the work, when completed, at \$50.

I return herewith the manuscript by Doctor E. Jay Edwards, in which two or three trifling corrections have been made. I also send you an autographed photograph by this mail under separate cover.

Yours very truly,

  
Charles E. Hall

Twist

May 12th, 1914.

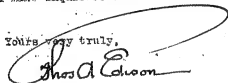
Mr. J. Gummer and others,  
89 Lakeside Avenue,  
Orange, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter and was very much surprised to read the contents of the same. Let me say for your information that I have never given instructions to turn away ~~any~~ workmen because of their nationality, whether it be Greek or any other nationality. If any such thing has been done it is without my knowledge or consent. I am willing to employ work people of any nationality if they are respectable people and behave in a orderly manner.

I will make inquiries about the matter that you mention.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas Edison

602

May 16th, 1914.

Mr. Miner L. Hartmann,  
Coolidge Laboratory,  
Harvard University,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 14th instant has been received and shown to Mr. Edison. I am glad to be able to say to you that he will take you on his staff at the salary named in your letter. Mr. Edison says an increase will depend how you fit into the game.

You may come along as soon as you are ready. It would be well to advise me as to when you expect to report here.

Yours very truly,

*W. L. Langford*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



May 20th, 1914.

Mr. Percival S. Hill,  
President, The American Tobacco Co.,  
111 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

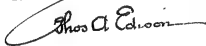
Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 18th instant and in reply beg to say that I have never placed in my factories any signs specifically prohibiting cigarette smoking. nor have I asked any of the six thousand factory employees of the different manufacturing companies under my control to refrain from smoking cigarettes. The newspaper items that have recently appeared are, therefore, incorrect.

In my Laboratory, however, for a long time past, I have had signs displayed forbidding my experimenters to use cigarettes, and I have abundant reasons for it.

To make sure, suppose I put a couple of my men on the experiment and get a lot of data in this connection?

Yours very truly,



**General Letterbook Series  
Letterbook, LB-098 (1914)**

This letterbook covers the period May-September 1914. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included are letters to Percival S. Hill of the American Tobacco Co. and others regarding Edison's widely reported opinions about the deleterious effects of cigarette smoking. One letter remarks that "this cigarette controversy has aroused such wide attention that . . . I cannot spare the time from my other work to answer all the letters that come in." Also included are letters to American statesmen and politicians William Jennings Bryan, Edward W. Townsend, and William Hughes concerning the disruption of trade during World War I, its effects upon the American chemical industry, and Edison's experiments toward producing synthetic phenol as a substitute for the imported carbolic acid used in the manufacture of phonograph records. In a letter to Samuel Hill of the Home Telephone and Telegraph Co. of Portland, Oregon, Edison expresses concern that "some of the boundary lines" on the globe Hill gave him "will have to be changed as a result of the present conflict." Other documents relate to the commercial and technical development of Edison's storage battery, phonograph, and motion picture businesses, as well as the market conditions for electric vehicles.

The front cover is marked "T. A. E. May 20, 14. To Sept 23." The spine is marked with similar information, along with the number "37." The book contains 694 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 20 percent of the book has been selected.

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May 20th, 1914.

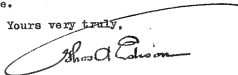
Mr. A. B. Hepburn,  
% The Chase National Bank,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 18th instant inviting me to become a member of the France-America Committee.

While I thank you for this opportunity offered, let me say that my time and attention are so fully taken up with a multitude of business affairs and experimental work that I am desirous of keeping out of all public affairs. I shall therefore have to ask you to excuse me from becoming a member of this Committee.

Yours very truly,



*Wish*

May 20th, 1914.

Dr. S. S. Laws,  
1723 Q Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Laws:

Let me thank you for your kind favor of the 16th instant which came as a pleasant surprise. I was very glad to hear from you, for about two years ago someone told me that you had left this more or less troubled life. I doubted the report, however, remembering your powerful personality and that good heavy head of hair you had when I last saw you. Your letter certainly does not bear the impress of a man ninety years of age, and you are to be congratulated on the attainment of such a ripe old age with so much vigor in store.

I must thank you for your compliments in regard to my daughter. Yes, her mother and I are rather proud of her, and indeed of the whole family.

Your life has been so well ordered and your powers so well preserved that I guess it is safe to wish that your years may still be prolonged and happy. With this wish and my kindest regards to you and your wife, I remain

Sincerely yours,

*Charles A. Brown*

*W. W. W.*

May 21st, 1914.

Mr. F. F. Kehew,  
Leominster,  
Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to the inquiry in your favor of the 16th instant in regard to my son, let me say that the boy eats about one half the quantity that boys generally eat. He sleeps about six hours and is as bright as a dollar. He would take still less sleep, but his mother has got it in her head that he must have at least six hours, although she herself does not get that much.

Yours very truly,

*W. W. W.*

*Direct*

May 22nd, 1914.

Mr. Walt Mason,  
Emporia,  
Kansas.

Dear Mr. Mason:

I have enjoyed such of your prose poems as I have seen, and I have also enjoyed reading the plain prose in your favor of the 18th instant that tells me of the pleasure you derived from the phonograph. It does me good, for I must confess to a similar weakness. I am glad you like the Blue Amberol records. We try to make them as good as possible.

Have you heard my new disc machine? If not, you should drop in to see one of our dealers and let him play a few records for you.

It is gratifying to learn that you are among the admirers of the old Heart Songs. So am I, and I intend to put out records of Grandfather's Clock, Blue Alsatian Mountains, and a lot of the other old standard songs.

Many thanks for your kind letter.

Yours very truly,

*Walt A. Mason*

15  
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Froudford Commercial Agency,  
Singer Building,  
New York City.

May 22nd, 1914.

My dear Mr. Froudford:

Mr. Edison wants to know if you have any  
report on the New York Peace Society, 507 - 5th Avenue. If  
you have, will you kindly send me a report and oblige

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Twink*

May 21st, 1914.

Mr. Frank C. Reilly,  
Electric Sales Company,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Reilly:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 18th instant, and thank you for brochure on the cigarette enclosed therein.

This is one of the funniest and most entertaining things I have seen about the Cigarette, and I want to thank you for your courtesy in sending it to me.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A. Edison*

*Trick*

May 22nd, 1914.

Mr. Vance L. Stowell,  
Wind River,  
Wyo.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 15th instant has been received, and while I thank you very much for the opportunity offered to record these Indian dances and music for my talking pictures, it will be impossible for us to take advantage of the same, as we are so greatly crowded with work that we could not do it at this time.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

Thank

May 22, 1936.

Mr. Geo. W. Sillcox,  
18 Place Stephanie,  
Brussels, Belgium.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your order of the 14th instant  
and also of the small and large samples of film you desire.

We are now using in one branch of our business a  
large quantity of non-inflammable film that is similar to the sample  
you have sent. It does not burn, and it is more easy to handle.  
There are several manufacturers of this material in Great Britain  
in this country.

If the film of which you have sent me samples  
can be made cheaper than that which we buy, it would be worth  
the effort as a business proposition. *if Emulsion was on a*

*ready to photograph* —

Yours very truly,

*Thos A. Edison*



*Print*

May 23rd, 1914.

Mrs. Jacob Cohen,  
2460 - 7th Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 18th instant to Mr. Edison has been received, and in reply we beg to say that both he and our Company receive a very large number of requests for donations of phonographs, and in each case there is apparently good reason for making the request.

It is impossible for us to respond favorably in these cases as it would entail enormous expense, beside, such donations would make a great deal of trouble for us in view of our contracts with those who deal in these machines.

Yours truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Trink

May 23rd, 1914.

Steinway & Sons,  
107 East 14th Street,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th instant in which you state that the repairs to our Steinway Grand Piano #66793 are now complete. You may send it over here to the Laboratory at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Wired*  
*256*

May 25th, 1914.

Mr. Percival S. Munn  
President, American Tobacco Co.,  
111 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant, the contents of which have been noted with a great deal of interest. In regard to the production of acrolein, I am afraid your informant is not fully acquainted with the facts. I spent two years experimenting on the carbonization, burning and distilling of wood, paper, etc., during the investigations I made to produce filaments for the incandescent lamps, and I am pretty well acquainted with the products of combustion, which differ according to the rate or temperature.

There is a long story connected with cigarettes, and if one of the experimenters have is released from a job on which he is now spending his time, I will put him on the experiment to get the data.

Let me say for your information that I have found in practice that many cigarette smokers will not take a job unless they are permitted to use the regular cigarettes, notwithstanding the fact that they would be allowed to use cigarettes with tobacco wrappers.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

*Third*

May 25th, 1914.

Mr. Grant Van Hoose,  
% Union High School,  
Yuma, Arizona.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the  
15th instant, asking me for a replica of my letter to Mr.  
Ford about cigarettes.

I must ask you to excuse me, for the  
present at any rate because this cigarette controversy has  
aroused such wide attention that it is loading my mail basket  
up too much, and I cannot spare the time from my other work  
to answer all the letters that come in.

Yours very truly,

*J. M. A. [Signature]*  
J. M. A. [Signature]

*Trick*

May 27th, 1914.

Mr. E. B. Froudfit,  
The Aeolian Company,  
29 West 42nd Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 25th instant, let me say that the reason that we ceased to do business with you sometime ago was not from any dissatisfaction with the service or with your music roll.

When I subscribed for rolls sometime ago it was for our piano player here so that Mr. Edison could have played for him the various selections. For sometime past we have had a musical staff here, consisting of players and singers, who play and sing a vast number of selections of different kinds so that Mr. Edison can select what he wishes to be recorded on the phonograph. *Hence we do not use any more piano rolls.*

Yours very truly,

*W. H. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

May 26th, 1914.

Mrs. M. Goodstein,  
376 Park Place,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of recent date to Mr. Edison in regard to making a special price on a phonograph for the Hebrew Orphan Asylum of Brooklyn has been received. Mr. Edison requests us to say that he would very much like to accommodate you in this regard, but it is simply impossible owing to our contract relations with dealers.

We have a vast number of applications similar to yours, but we are obliged to give a uniform answer to all, as it would make a great deal of trouble for us with our dealers if we were to compete with them in their own territory *undoubtedly*.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*J. H. P.*

Wick

May 28th, 1914.

American-Philippine Company,  
20 Church Street,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 26th instant, and would say that the plow is rather out of my line, but I can say that almost any traction plow now operated by steam or gasoline can also be operated by electric motor and storage battery just as well, and if water power is available for furnishing power to charge the batteries, very much cheaper. The operation of the plow by electric motor would also be very much less complicated.

The initial investment, principally for storage batteries, would be considerably higher than for steam or gasoline, but the total operating costs would be very much lower.

Yours very truly,

Shoemaker

Quick

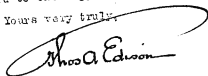
May 28th, 1914.

Mr. Louis E. Carpenter,  
2200 Warren Avenue,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant, and would say in reply that I do not want to get mixed up any further in the cigarette controversy at the present time, and therefore shall not be able to do anything in regard to the suggestion you make.

Yours very truly,

Thomas Edison



Wink

May 28th, 1914.

Mr. Edward A. Humel,  
The Interlaken School,  
Rolling Prairie, Indiana.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 21st instant, enclosing an article describing the principles underlying the Ford business. This is a fine article, and I have read it with a great deal of interest. As you say nothing to the contrary, I assume that you desire me to keep this article for my file. If I am wrong about this, please let me know and I will return it to you.

Did you send a copy to Mr. Ford?

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison



May 28th, 1914.

Mr. Geo. B. Scott,  
R. F. D. No. 2,  
Tom's River, N. J.

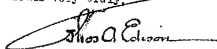
Dear Mr. Scott:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 26th inst., and am glad to hear from you after the lapse of so many years. Your letter brings back memories of days so long past.

I shall be glad to see your two sons if they will come over here to the Laboratory, and of course will afford them an opportunity of going through the Works.

I would suggest that they communicate with my assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft at this address when they wish to come over, so that they will be sure to find me at liberty.

Yours very truly,





June 1st, 1914.

Mr. Emil Rasch,  
859 N. La Salle Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 27th ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received. He requests us to say in reply that there is no "method" of reading four lines at once. It merely requires practice. He suggests that you try the reading or "sensing" one line at first, and gradually extend your practice until you can take in more.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.



*First*

May 29th, 1914.

Mr. M. Maurice Lehmann,  
61 Rue des Petites Ecuries,  
Paris, France.

Dear Mr. Lehmann:

There was a large accumulation of work awaiting my attention on my return from a few weeks vacation in Florida, and I have only just had time to take up the matter of the invention of Mr. G. A. Le Roy, covered by your recent correspondence with Mr. Meadowcroft.

Mr. Le Roy's invention is undoubtedly very interesting and ingenious, but I am afraid we shall be unable to avail ourselves of the opportunity so kindly offered to purchase the same. It would require a long line of experiments, and our own manufacturing processes have already been definitely laid out at enormous expense for machinery and plants, I cannot see my way clear to change to another process.

I return the papers specified in your letter of March 10th, 1914, and beg you to extend my thanks to Mr. Le Roy for his courtesy in offering me the opportunity to look into his invention.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas Edison*

*First*

May 29th, 1914.

Mr. Wm. Milligan,  
Empire,  
Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 14th instant has been forwarded to me by the Rev. D. G. Jackson, and I write to assure you positively that the phonograph that we manufacture cannot be used by any evil disposed person to produce the effect that you complain of. I am very sorry indeed to learn of your trouble, but you may be very sure that it is not caused in any way whatever through my phonograph.

I hope that the trouble you mention will soon cease.

Yours truly,

*Phonograph*

*Private*

May 29th, 1914.

Mr. Alexander F. Quailer,  
725 East 9th Street,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your enquiry of the 27th instant, let me say that I am not a Socialist and I do not believe in the theories of the Socialists.

I must ask you to kindly regard this letter as confidential and not for publication.

Yours very truly,

*Shoob A. Edison*

*Wink*  
223

June 2nd, 1914.

Mr. Fred Babson,  
 Chicago,  
 Ills.

Dear Mr. Babson:

I suppose it may serve a useful purpose if I occasionally point out some hustlers to you. In going over our daily traveller's reports and the sales reports I am interested in noting the personnel of our dealers, and when the facts disclose a real live wire I take note of it.

Two men in small towns in Iowa recently attracted my attention. Each one ordered a car load lot of Disc phonographs, although the population of one town was only 2275 and the other 1181. I understand these men make it their business to circulate in the adjacent territory and sell the goods.

Hence, it seems to me that you would perhaps like to know the names and addresses of these men. One is A. D. Smith, New Hampton, Iowa, and the other George J. Lenth, Elkader, Iowa.

Yours very truly,

*Wink*  
 Wink

First  
120

June 2nd, 1914.

Mr. W. C. Anderson,  
Detroit,  
Michigan.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I thought I made the proposition as to guarantee plain.

Is this plainer? -

A customer buys an Anderson Vehicle with Edison battery, all complete, at your list price.

You then hand him a guarantee from the Edison Storage Battery Co. stating that extending over a period of 8 years from the date of the purchase, the battery company will make all necessary repairs, furnish electrolyte, and, should the battery fail at any time within the eight years to be capable of giving its guaranteed capacity, the battery company will repair the battery or substitute another; for all of which it will charge at regular rates, but in no event shall the gross ~~sum~~ of these bills exceed \$680, or eighty five dollars per year, for the eight years.

Now, this seems plain to me. Of course, no battery lasts eight years and we shall have to make at least one renewal - and furnish electrolyte.

If from neglect, etc., we are compelled to make two renewals, we shall lose money - but we gamble on the fact that there



119

Mr. W. C. Anderson,  
Page -2-  
June 2nd, 1914.

will only be a certain percentage.

Is this clear? If not, we will try it again.

Yours very truly,

Edison

21

*21*

June 8th, 1914.

Hon. Ben B. Lindsey,  
Denver,  
Colorado.

My dear Judge:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 2nd instant, enclosing a copy of a letter written by you to Miss Olga Nethersole. I have shown both of them to Mr. Edison, and he says that he will be very glad to have her come over to the Laboratory at her convenience. Undoubtedly they will have a very instructive interview, and I wish you could be present. I am writing to Miss Nethersole today to make the arrangements.

I have a very pleasant recollection of your visit here. You may be able to identify me by recalling the fact that I sat with you and your friends on the train going back to New York that evening. Of course, you also saw me around the Library here.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Trusk*

June 8th, 1914.

Miss Olga Nethersole,  
Plaza Hotel,  
New York City.

Dear Miss Nethersole:

I have received a letter from Judge Ben Lindsey, enclosing copy of a letter of introduction to Mr. Edison, and sent to you.

I have shown these to Mr. Edison, and he says that he will be very glad indeed to see you whenever you are ready to take a trip over here to the Laboratory.

Let me say for your information that it is possible Mr. Edison might have to be away for a few hours some day in the early part of next week, but otherwise we expect him to be here every day and all day. I would suggest that you call me on the telephone (908 Orange) and let me know when you think of coming over. *Any day this week would be all right.*

I am usually here all day, but to-morrow, Tuesday, I will be obliged to be away in the morning, but expect to return to the Laboratory by 2 o'clock.

Yours very truly,

*H. P. Lovecraft*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Merck

June 9, 1914.

S. Bergmann, Esq.,

23 Oudenarder Str.,

Berlin, N. Germany.

My dear Bergmann:-

I am in receipt of a letter from the  
Deutsche Edison-Akkumulatoren Co. dated May 25th.

We buy DRY LITHIA HYDRATE from Merck  
for ninety eight cents per pound. It comes to us  
moist, but we buy on the basis of dry hydrate.

Price is CONFIDENTIAL.

I have a long contract with them.

With kind regards, I am.

Yours very truly,

Edison

*Spuck*

June 9th, 1914.

Mr. J. Cornelius Earll,  
325 Waldo Avenue,  
Pasadena, Calif.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 26th ultimo, let me say that I cannot defend my use of tobacco for chewing. It is a habit I acquired ~~when~~ a young telegraph operator, where smoking was not allowed.

It appears that the cells of the body will meet the environment of the body and adapt the body to such environment, but after such adaptation, the cells resent any change.

For instance, the cells resent the use of tobacco, but after they are forced to consent to it, they adapt themselves to the changed condition. If the user attempts to stop, they resent any change in the other direction.

The cells that control our organism seem very conservative entities and resent change.

Yours very truly,

*Theo. A. Earll*

*Murk*  
COPY

Copy of pencil memorandum sent Johnson, June 10th 1914,  
in reply to his letter dated June 8th 1914.

Mr. R. H. Johnson,  
Chicago.

I SEND YOU \$200.00... WHY DON'T YOU  
SEND SOME YOUR FRIENDS TO OUR PLACE 10 FIFTH  
AVENUE AND SELL SOME OF THE NEW PHONOS.

(Signed)

R "

To Mr. R. H. Johnson,

20 Broad Street.

New York City.

*Turek*  
254

June 11th, 1914.

Mr. Melville Clarke,  
410 South Michigan Boulevard,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Referring to the recent visit of Mr. Roberts and his conversation with Mr. Hutchison in regard to the proposed motion pictures of piano playing, let me say that I ought to have written to you several days ago, but owing to the fact that I have been at the dentists practically every day for the last week or two and attending to a big rush of pressing matters on returning to the office, the matter has been delayed. I must ask you to accept my apology.

Before going on to take any actual motion pictures of the piano playing, Mr. Edison is desirous of having the basis of our arrangement put in writing. As he told you when you were last here, the piano motion pictures would not be available for our regular business as they would be unsuitable for the requirements of the motion picture theatres. Therefore, the piano playing motion pictures would have to be made especially for you and hence at your expense upon such terms as would be mutually agreed upon between you and our company.

As there would be quite some expense connected with making the first experimental pictures, Mr. Edison would like to have you submit to him the basis of a working arrangement between you and our Company. As soon as this is settled upon, we can get right down to work.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Leland*

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

1603

*Spencer*

m June 11th, 1914.

Mrs. Josephine R. Ober,  
Society Editor,  
The World,  
New York City.

Dear Mrs. Ober:

Miss Edison ~~has~~ asked me to take care of the newspapers in connection with her approaching wedding, and has given me your letter to her under date of June 1st.

Let me say that on Monday next I shall be able to give you a memorandum of some pre-nuptial festivities, which you can publish in Tuesday's paper. On Wednesday I can give you a memorandum about the wedding, including description of gowns, etc. for publication in Thursday's paper.

On Monday I expect to give you ~~an~~ order on the photographers for a photograph of Miss Edison which is to be taken tomorrow, and for a recent photograph of Mr. Sloane.

If you wish to send a reporter on the day of the wedding you may do so. A lady would be preferable, but it is to be understood that the ceremony itself will be private. The reception will be at 4.30 o'clock. Of course ~~men~~ will be barred.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.





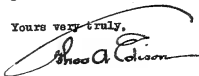
June 12th, 1914.

Hon. Gifford Pinchot,  
Philadelphia,  
Pa.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your telegram  
and must ask you to excuse me from replying affirmative-  
ly, as I do not want to get into politics.

Yours very truly,





June 13th, 1914.

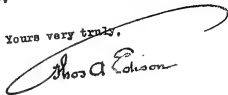
Hon. R. Borghetti,  
Regia Ambasciata d'Italia,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 2nd instant in regard to my patent for a system of constructing concrete houses, and in reply beg to say that the patent has not yet been issued.

There are several inventors who have built houses with forms, but I am unable to give you their addresses. The United States Steel Co. have built a great many houses at their works in Lorain, Ohio, and I would suggest that you might investigate these.

Yours very truly,



*Direct*

June 13th, 1914.

Mr. William Feather,  
1202 Ashland Block,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 9th instant informing me that I have been elected one of the Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Paine Monument Association in the City of Chicago, and would say that I accept the same with pleasure.

"The Truth is mighty and will prevail."

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*Private*

June 18th, 1914.

Mr. A. B. McCall,  
631 West Edwards St.,  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 6th instant, and also of a pair of your trouser shields, for which I thank you. I am sorry to say that I shall have to disappoint you in regard to wearing them myself, as I am not a user of bicycles and would have no occasion for using them myself. However, I will turn them over to someone who will make good use of them.

I regret to say that it will be impossible for me to give you any practical advice about marketing this product, as it is entirely out of my line. There are no general rules for marketing miscellaneous products, and I am so busy day and night with my own extensive business affairs and experimental work that it is simply out of the question for me to attempt to advise others on such subjects. Hence, I must ask to be excused from offering any opinion in the matter.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*



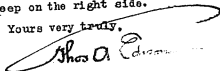
June 13th, 1914.

Mr. W. S. Wood,  
1727 Lan Title Building,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th instant, and in reply beg to say that there is no electrical significance in the position taken in sleeping. I think it is generally conceded that in order to give the heart free action, it is best to sleep on the right side.

Yours very truly,



*Frank*

June 16th, 1914

Mr. W. K. L. Dickson,  
Point Pleasant,  
Wandsworth,  
London, S. W., England.


Dear Dickson:

I have been ~~am~~ busy since my return home from the South that it has been simply impossible for ~~me~~ to do more than touch the high spots in my mail and other matters.

Much as I would like to help you out, let me say that on account of the great depression in this country, I am actually unable at the present moment to let you have the loan you ask for.

It was very kind of you to prepare an answer to the misleading statements in the Financial News, but I have gotten us that I do not care to deny newspaper misstatements, as I have invariably found it to be an unsatisfactory course of procedure.

Yours very truly,

Yours very truly,  


*First*  
*306*

June 16th, 1914.

Messrs. Harger & Blish,  
811 Walnut Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 10th instant in regard to making disc records of the various Odes to be used in connection with Secret Order work has been received.

I wish that you would kindly obtain for me a very full list of all songs that are used or that are desirable for fraternity associations, such as Freemasons. If you will send this list on to me I will go through it carefully and pick out the best so that we can have a full line of these Odes recorded.

As I am not a Mason I shall not know which of the Odes are an essential part of their ceremony. In a full list, I suppose that probably some of the Odes mentioned might be alternative. I would suggest, therefore, that you give each one a number and write the word "essential" or the word "alternative" opposite each number.

Of course, I do not know whether you would be allowed to do this, but you will see that what I am after is to make one full list of everything essential, anyway.

Yours very truly,

*James A. Edison*

June 16th, 1914.

Dr. J. G. Lipman, Director,  
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Stations,  
New Brunswick, N. J.

Dear Mr. Lipman:

Referring to your favor of the 1st instant,  
in regard to establishing at Rutgers College a Fellowship to  
investigate uses of pulverized limestone, let me say that I  
would be glad to have the Fellowship established, and will  
personally pay \$600.00 a year for three years therefor.

Trusting this will be satisfactory, I remain

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Cowan



*Wish*

June 16th, 1914.

Mr. I. E. Burkart,  
Walnut at Eleventh Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Burkart:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 13th  
instant, enclosing some printed matter relating to the  
Phonet-O-Scope.

Let me say in reply that so far as I can  
learn this is merely a stock selling scheme, and there are  
several parties in the field doing this kind of work.

Please accept my thanks for your courtesy  
in calling my attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,

*Sh. A. L.*



June 16th, 1914.

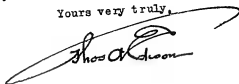
Mr. Charles R. Flint,  
4 East 35th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Flint:

Replying to your favor of the 13th inst.  
let me say that the newspapers reported me incorrectly. I did  
not say that I am now working on getting electricity direct  
from coal, but said that I had worked on it, and believed that  
some of the many experimenters who are now working in that  
direction will ultimately succeed.

When you become a neighbor I shall be  
very glad to have you come and see me.

Yours very truly,



*Truck*

June 18th, 1914.

Brooks Brothers,  
Minnesota Transfer,  
Minn.

Gentlemen:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 13th instant, which I have read with a good deal of interest.

Let me say for your information that if you will investigate you will find that the Brewers of New York use five ton electric trucks almost entirely, having previously tried gasoline trucks. The reason that electric are better is on account of their simplicity, the motor having only one moving part, namely, the armature of the motor, whereas the gas ~~car~~ has several hundred.

The drivers of gasoline trucks must have a certain degree of mechanical skill, which is not required by the driver of the electric. For this reason, the drivers of gasoline cars are prone to get together and unionize. This can be offset by using electric, as anyone of ordinary intelligence can learn to operate an electric in an hour.

The repairs on gasoline cars are quite extensive, but are two thirds less on electric. Besides, the electric are reliable, just like trolley cars. I feel very certain that the simple electric motor truck is found to replace all others for vehicle traffic.

There are two makers of good five ton trucks. One of them is the General Vehicle Company of Long Island City, New York, who makes exclusively electric, and the other is the General Motors Company of Detroit, Michigan, who builds both electric and gasoline trucks. I know of no other concerns who build five ton electric.

Trusting the above information will answer your purpose, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm A Edison*

*200*  
*301*

June 23, 1914

Deutsche Edison Akkumulatoren Company, G.m.b.H.,  
Froniusstrasse 33-35,  
Berlin N.20, Germany.

Gentlemen:-

Having received ~~me~~ reply to my letter of April 2,  
1914, I am sending you herewith a copy of the same. In this  
letter I pointed out that the royalty statement for the first  
quarter of the year 1914 was defective in certain respects, and  
also that the check received from you was only for cells actual-  
ly sold by you during that quarter. ~~Whereas~~ on each royalty re-  
turn date I am entitled to royalties on all cells shipped from  
your factory during the quarter whether sold or not. Will you  
kindly give this matter your attention.

Very truly yours,

*Alfred C. Edison*

Girok

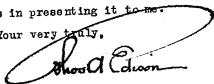
June 22nd, 1914.

Mr. Yoshiro Okabe,  
Nippon Kinetophone Co.,  
Hibiya Toshoken Mae,  
Tokyo, Japan.

Dear Sir:-

I received from you safely and in good order the handsome cabinet that you sent to me, and I want to express my thanks to you for this beautiful piece of work and for your kindness in presenting it to me.

Your very truly,

Chas. A. Dixon

Thank

June 22nd, 1914.

Mr. Lester A. Simon,  
Box 32,  
Texas State Penitentiary,  
Buntville, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

I received your favor of the 14th instant, enclosing copy of an essay written by you for the American Magazine, and thank you for sending it. It makes me blush = deep aniline red.

Yours truly,

*Thos A. Simon*

*Wick*  
273

June 23, 1914.

A. Klipstein & Co.,

644 Greenwich St.,

New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Yours of the 17th instant received.

The samples of palm wax we have received are all adulterated. What I want is the wax without adulteration; it is too much bother to get the different stuff out that they put in. Can you tell me what country it comes from and I will try and get it un-adulterated. If I find it you can deal direct with the dealers and procure me a supply.

Yours very truly,

*J. P. C. [Signature]*

153  
287

JUNE 23rd, 1914

Mr. Melville Clark,  
410 South Michigan Boulevard,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Clark:

Your favor of the 15th instant was received, and the matter has been submitted for Mr. Edison's consideration.

As our arrangements stand at the present time, we have a studio equipped and a corps of men especially trained for the talking motion picture work. We depend on this for our regular steady production of commercial records and pictures, day by day. As you are probably aware, the profit in this business depends upon the regular quantity of work turned out to fulfill our contract obligations with picture houses, which are usually based on a certain number of releases per week.

Unless arrangements are made with the circuits of the Vaudeville houses throughout the country to introduce the film showing the artist playing and providing for the use of a piano, it would not pay us to undertake the experiment. But if contracts could be signed up with several hundred theatres in Vaudeville, we would be sure of a fair return and you would get the advertisement and also the films for your stores. Otherwise, it would not pay us to take up the time of our experts.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.





June 23rd, 1914.

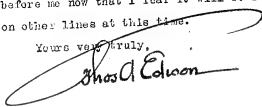
Mr. G. W. Loggie,  
Whetoom Fall Mills Co.,  
Bellingham, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 15th instant, which has been read with a great deal of interest. Let me thank you for the information therein contained and to congratulate you on a discovery of such utility. I am glad to learn that you will at least be credited with your idea, although it is too bad you could not have derived more substantial recognition. I shall have our people try graphite in our boilers, and hope we may find the results as successful as your own use of it.

Let me thank you for the suggestion of experimenting with this substance for tempering copper, but I have such an immense amount of work before me now that I fear it will be impossible to experiment on other lines at this time.

Yours very truly,





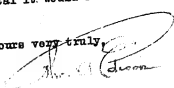
June 26th, 1914.

Mr. Wm. London,  
1621 Twentieth Avenue,  
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 18th instant, and in reply would say that in my opinion a nickel sulphide ore carrying more than 5% of metallic nickel is about as low as the ore can be profitably worked.

The nickel trusts have enormous deposits of 5 to 8% nickel and 3% copper sulphide ore, which they roast in the air and run through a matte furnace. They practically control nickel in the United States. Unless you have quite a rich ore and plenty of capital it would be a tough proposition to compete with them.

Yours very truly,  


*First*  
*347*

June 27th, 1914

Mr. R. H. Beach,  
Singer Bldg.,  
New York City.

Dear Beach:

Lisman's people are complaining to me  
about your sending through the mails some advertising  
matter implying that you have rights for my battery in the  
United States.

Please cut that out, and confine your  
efforts to the real thing that we talked about, namely,  
foreign sales.

Yours very truly,

*John A. Edison*

June 29th, 1914.

Professeur H. Pierson,  
Directeur du Laboratoire de Psychologie,  
4 la Sorbonne,  
Paris, France.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 5th instant, in which you ask whether I could find in my Laboratory one of the electric pens that I used to make. I regret to say that I shall be unable to help you out. I have looked around, but cannot find a single electric pen left in the Laboratory.

I am afraid that you would have to go to some makers of philosophical instruments to have one of these made. We have ~~the~~ facilities for making one at my works here, and I have long since lost the drawing and specification for the manufacture of these articles.

Regretting that I cannot accommodate you, I

remain

Yours very truly,

*Henri Pierson*

*There is a casual appearance of the same nature, which is used for marking and editing problems. It seems that even in different in France.*



June 30th, 1914.

Mr. B. M. Anderson,  
1001 East Main Street,  
Richmond, Va.

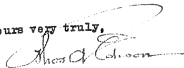
Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 26th instant, and to express my appreciation of the kind words you have betrayed in regard to my disc phonograph.

After working hard for some years on this machine and records it rewards me to learn that lovers of good music appreciate the results of these efforts.

Now in regard to your idea as to short phonograph records to be sent through the mail, it has been worked on by many inventors, but nothing has been done that was commercial. Some concern in Germany had them manufactured and made a great deal of talk about them, but the sales were very poor. We are so busy here that it would be simply impossible to take up this scheme at the present time. We may be able to reach it at some future day.

Yours very truly,



June 30th, 1914.

Prof. Wm. Chas. Bauer,  
2149 Sherman Avenue,  
Evanston, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor  
of the 22nd instant in regard to your primary battery cell.

In reply let me say I do not think we should  
take up the matter with you now as we ourselves have been  
experimenting with cells of this character for over thirty  
years. We prefer to wait until you can present a completed  
commercial cell, and if we can then see a profit in it over  
anything we now have ourselves, we will be glad to treat with  
you.

Yours very truly,

*Durst*

July 7. 1914.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Mr. ALBERT G. SCHOLER has  
been with me at the Laboratory for seven years.  
His services have been very satisfactory in all respects.  
He leaves my employ of his own accord.

*Thos. A. Durst*

*Wick*

July 16, 1914.

Jacob Stahl Jr. & Co.,

12-1220 First Avenue,

New York City.

Dear Sirs:-

I send you a box of BRUNSWICK cigars which  
all burn inward and which are impossible to use.  
They are entirely unlike those of this brand, which  
I have been buying from C. M. Decker & Bros. of Orange  
for the past twenty five years.

I think sabotage is being practiced in your  
factory by the I. W. W. or something of that kind.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. C. Decker*



*Frank*

July 22nd, 1914.

Mr. George H. Follows,  
6428 Darlington Road,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to yours of the 16th instant regarding disc records being out of true, I would say that I have investigated the eccentricity of our records and find about 2% run out due to holes, which is due to carelessness on the part of the operator on centering machine, and will be corrected. This eccentricity is sometimes due to warping.

The scouring noise or run out as we call it is due to an uneven weld between the blank and the veneer. The continuous surface sound is broken up to strong and weak. We are constantly improving our technique in this respect and will, I hope, practically remove it.

The new disc machine brings out all the defects of the singer. At first we thought these defects were in the recording and reproducing, but they are not. They do not show in the instrumental records and when listening to a repetition of a song with the ~~same~~ only, these defects are clearly in the singer's voice.

As to Ragtime, Comic records, etc., we are compelled to put them on the market or go out of business.

Yours very truly,

*Charles Edison*

PS Very thankful for your  
Tip on eccentricity *2*

First

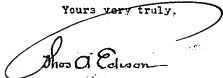
July 27, 1914.

Die Internationale Kino-Industrie Ausstellung,  
Budapest, Hungary.

Gentlemen:-

I have received your courteous invitation to become the Honorary President of your Exhibition, and in reply beg to say that it gives me pleasure to advise you of my acceptance of the same, and to assure you of my wishes that you may have a most successful Exposition.

Yours very truly,

 Thomas A. Edison

$$\begin{array}{r} 332 \\ \hline 515 \end{array}$$

July 28, 1914

He is a very good handler.

PRINCE GEORGE HOTEL  
L. A. Stouffert, Mgr.

263n St. New York 40.  
149 Broadway.

Dear Sir:-


New York City

Dear Mr. Proudfoot: I have your letter of the 20rd inst.  
and am glad to hear from you. I have received  
your letter of January 1st and am glad to hear  
from you. I have also received your letter of  
January 1st and am glad to hear from you. I have  
also received your letter of January 1st and am  
glad to hear from you. I have also received  
your letter of January 1st and am glad to hear  
from you. I have also received your letter of  
January 1st and am glad to hear from you.

I gave him the money to help him

along. It was several months ago.

~~Youre~~ Very truly,

Yours very truly,  
  
 Thomas A. Edison

332  
515

July 28, 1914

Dr. J. J. Schuler.

PRINCE GEORGE HOTEL  
L. A. Broadfoot, Manager

25th St., New York City  
149 Broadway

Dear Sir:-

New York City

[illegible]

I gave him the money to help him

along. It was several months ago.

Yours very truly

Andersen

*Givok*

AUG. 5, 1914.


Mr. Geo. F. DeVos,  
Marengo, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 22nd ult. in regard to making Chinese Records for the Phonograph, has been received and read with much interest.

I regret to say that I shall be unable to make a favorable reply to your inquiry at the present time, as we are very busy on matters of pressing importance, and that we shall be unable to take up the matter of making Chinese Records for some time to come. We shall undoubtedly do it at some future time, but cannot take it up just now.

Yours very truly,



Thomas Edison

EFS



Aug. 4, 1914.

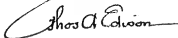
Mr. Samuel Insull,  
#120 West Adams Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Insull:

I have received yours of the 1st instant,  
together with copy of Mrs. Lippincott's letter of July  
27th.

It is true that Lippincott lost his all,  
but I found out when all was over that he had made false  
statements to me and at all times was two-faced. Under  
all the circumstances, I think that I have fulfilled every  
moral obligation if there ever were any.

Yours very truly,



EFS

*Wink*

AUG. 5, 1914.

Mr. Robert John, Secretary  
The Luther Burbank Society,  
Santa Rosa, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your favor of the 21st ultimo, I  
beg to say that I have received Volumes I, II and III of  
my set of Luther Burbank's Illustrated Records, and beg  
to thank you therefor.

Yours very truly,

*Wink*

WFS

*Rich*  

---

*612*

AUG. 5, 1914.

Merck & Company,  
#48 Park Place,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Referring to your favor of the 30th ult. I  
beg to say I don't think we can use Meta-Para-Cresol.

As to Carbolic Acid, I was trying to find out  
whether I could get it in this country, not Abroad. We  
are now pretty well supplied with carbolic acid, having  
bought about 60 tons in this country within the last few  
days.

If you hear of anything along these lines that  
you think will interest me, I shall be glad to hear from  
you.

Yours very truly,

*J. A. [Signature]*

EPS



*Direct*  
421

Aug. 5, 1914.

Mr. Fr. Meitz,  
#602 South 9th St.,  
Lafayette, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Your very interesting letter of the 17th ult., addressed to my Company, was handed to me. I have read it very carefully and beg to thank you for the kind words with which you are pleased to commend my Diamond Disc Phonograph. I enjoy full and frank criticism and expression of opinion, and have been greatly interested in reading your letter.

Let me say in regard to some of your remarks that you must bear in mind we have just started in with an absolutely new technique in the phonograph art, and it takes time to develop something which is radically new. In good time, we expect to have all the beautiful music you speak of, and shall also add to our Staff the best singers that we can find, but we shall not employ singers haphazard like some of our competitors, who use only those who are celebrated thru newspaper notoriety. Many of these are celebrated not for intrinsic merits of their voice, but mostly for stage presence and acting.

We have plenty of Bari records, which will be put out as we go along. Urlus sang ten records for us and I sent them

420

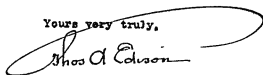
Mr. Fr. Meitz,  
Page -2-  
August 5, 1914.

to the scrap heap because the surface noises were too great. He sang in London ten more quite recently, and I scrapped them all because he was in poor voice. Our chief competitor would have used all of them.

I had fifteen records sung by Knote and relegated all but one to the scrap heap. I had twenty records sung by Agostinelli, all of which, except one, turned out badly and I scrapped all of them except this one. She was in poor voice when she sang these records, and had a terrible tremolo from start to finish.

Finally, and sad to relate, 92% of all the records we have sold in the last thirteen weeks have been of the popular variety, and only 8% were of the class of music that you want. This has been a great disappointment to me.

Yours very truly,



Thomas Edison

EFS

*Nov 14*

August 5, 1914.

Messrs. Nichols & Hobbs.

7 East 42nd Street.

New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 20th ultimo regarding the Iona Island, New York. property received.

I originally bought this land in 1890 for the iron mine on the property, which I located.

I paid \$3,000.00 in cash for it. Have sold wood from it to the amount of \$906.50. and have paid taxes amounting to \$1,009.00.

I will sell for Cost, plus taxes and interest at 5 per-cent from date of purchase. minus the amount of money received for wood: in other words, cost to me, viz.--\$6,700.00.

I enclose herewith a description of the property.

Yours very truly.

*Thomas A. Edison*

59  
426

Aug. 5, 1914.

Madam Blanche Arral,  
#500 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Madam:

I am afraid that you will have but a poor opinion of my promptness in answering letters from the fact that you have not heretofore received a reply to your favor of the 29th of June. The fact is, I went for a vacation the day afterwards and have only just returned. I must, therefore, ask you to kindly excuse the delay in replying to your letter.

Perhaps we did not come to a complete understanding when I last had the pleasure of seeing you. You explained to me your project and said that you expected to have the manuscript of the vaudeville sketch in a few days and would then come around again and bring it with you, so that we could talk the whole matter over with Mr. Edison. After you had left the office, I explained the matter to Mr. Edison and he thought rather favorably of it, but said he would postpone final decision until you came around with your vaudeville sketch in manuscript. This will explain why you did not hear from me, for I was expecting you to call

425

Madam Blanche Arral.  
Page -2-  
Aug. 6, 1914.

again or communicate with me.

I feel sorry that there has been any misunderstanding in the matter, but trust that no serious inconvenience has arisen therefrom. I shall be glad to see you and take up the matter again at any day that may be convenient to you.

Yours very truly,

*W. L. ...*

ASSISTANT TO MR. EDISON.

EFS

*Direct*

Aug. 5, 1914.

Mr. Alfred Edgerton,  
#55 1/2 First Street,  
Fulton, New York.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 21st ultimo, together with copy of your report to Professor Yerkes in regard to Tom Stringer, reached me in due course.

The case is undoubtedly very interesting and worthy of profound study and experiment. To be of any assistance in this matter would require both time and effort, neither of which I can give outside my own business and experimental work. Inasmuch as I work about eighteen hours a day on the large interests which require my constant attention, I regret to say that I shall be unable to be of assistance to you in connection with this peculiar case. Hence, I must ask you to kindly excuse me.

I return the copy of your report herewith.

Yours very truly,

RFE

Enc1.

*Alfred Edgerton*

*J. J. J.*  
43

Aug. 5, 1914.

Mr. D. C. Kaseman,  
#2033 Tioga Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 30th ult., in which you make some inquiries in regard to the first Electric Light Plant in Shamokin, Pa. I have also read your paper, copy of which was enclosed with your letter and found it very interesting. As a matter of fact, Sunbury was the first three-wire Electric Light Station in the world, where overhead conductors were used thru the streets. It was started in operation on July 4th, 1883. Shamokin was the second station of this kind, but I do not recollect what date it was started in operation, although it was not very long after the Sunbury Plant was started.

Although these were the early pioneer plants of the three-wire system, and were the source of considerable anxiety and ~~unw~~ to me and the men I had working with me, my recollection of the days in which they were installed and started have always been very pleasant ones, not only on account of the success which attended our early efforts in a comparatively unknown field at that time, but also by

Mr. D. C. Kaseman.  
Page -2-  
August 5, 1914.

436

reason of the pleasant associations with a lot of good  
fellows at those towns.

As you may not have information in regard to  
the original officers and directors of the Shamokin Company,  
I will mention them for your benefit. They are as follows:

The original officers of Shamokin Co. were -

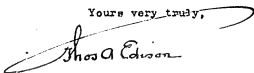
W.H. Douty, President.  
Holden Chester, Vice President.  
John Mullen, Treasurer.  
William Benry, Secretary.

The original Directors were -

W. H. Douty.  
C. C. Leader  
John Mullen  
A. Robertson  
Holden Chester  
William Benry  
P. B. Shaw.

Trusting that this information will be of some  
use to you, I remain,

Yours very truly,

 Thomas Edison

EVE



First

Aug. 5, 1934.

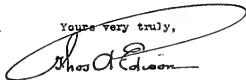
Mr. Gilbert McClurg, Of The  
New York Committee of the International  
Longfellow Society,  
#56 South Street,  
Morristown, N.J.

Dear Mr. McClurg:

Your favor of the 6th ultimo ~~came~~ to  
hand in due course, but I have been so busy the last two  
weeks that many matters have been laid aside until I got  
a little leisure.

It gives me much pleasure to say that I  
shall be happy to join your Society as a Life Member. In  
accordance with the statement which you enclosed in your  
letter, I send you herewith check for \$100.00, drawn to the  
order of the International Longfellow Society.

Yours very truly,

  
Howard Johnson

EFH

Encl.

*Trick**2440*

Aug. 5, 1914.

Mr. John F. Monnot,  
Edison Accumulators, Ltd.,  
#2 Duke St., Finsbury,  
London, S.E. England.

Dear Mr. Monnot:

I just drop you a line to warn you to be very particular about something, and that is, to arrange matters in all your installations so that the battery is never charged hot. If a battery is charged below 100 Fahrenheit, the life is enormously prolonged.

We are collecting results of experience from various persons and concerns, and many thousands of cells have gone above four years of life. Those that have never been charged hot, or above 100 Fahrenheit, seem to be about as good as ever after three or four years of use, but those batteries whose owners charge them hot, only just about pull thru the four years and that was because they had an excess of batteries, as all trucks have. Discharging the batteries hot does not appear to diminish the life.

We get people to come in at night and open up everything, so as to cool down the batteries below 100 Fahrenheit, then put them on charge. All the Beach cars

Mr. John Monnet.  
Page -2-  
Aug. 5, 1914.

439

that do this are making fine records. Some concerns use  
little desk fans to cool the batteries down.

Yours very truly,

EFS

Edison .

I suppose the war has stopped everything  
Fox is in Russia + wants \$1000. so far  
we have been unable to get it to him  
Can you suggest any way - even \$100.  
would help him — }



Aug. 6, 1914.

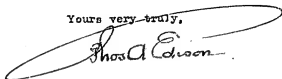
Mr. C. E. Scribner,  
Western Electric Co.,  
Bethune Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Scribner:

It was very kind of you to send  
me the photographs and description ~~me~~ promptly, and I  
appreciate it greatly. Let ~~me~~ thank you for your  
courtesy.

I want to squirt a tube for making  
a phonograph cylinder and had no idea how the die was  
made. Of course, I will regard the information as  
confidential.

Yours very truly,



EFS

399  
247

August 7, 1914.

Edison Portland Cement Co.,

W. S. Mallory, Esq., Pres.,

Stewartsville, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Mallory:-

Enclosed find certificate No. 1726 for 376 shares of Common stock of the Edison Portland Cement Company, which Mr. Edison wants split into forty shares in the name of H. M. Phillips, and 336 shares in his own name. He says to send Phillips the shares promised.

Will you please attend to the matter and oblige.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.



AUG. 7, 1914.

Miss Antonia Sawyer,  
Metropolitan Opera House,  
31425 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Madam:

In accordance with the promise that  
Mr. Edison made you the other day when you called here,  
he has autographed one of his photos for you, and I am  
sending it to you by registered mail under separate cover.

I should be obliged if you will kindly  
acknowledge receipt.

Yours very truly,

ASSISTANT TO MR. EDISON.

EFS



Aug. 8, 1934.

Prof. Luizi Romano,  
#210 Mott Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 7th instant, and would say in reply that so far as I understand your Kinstephone Waltz has not yet been reached on the music to be recorded by our Recording Department. Just at present that Department is closed down for two weeks vacation, but as soon as they reopen, I will call their attention to the matter and see what progress has been made.

Yours very truly,

EPS



Aug. 21, 1914.

Mr. J. H. Foley,  
c/o D. L. & W. Railroad Co.,  
#90 West Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Foley:

I sent to thank you in behalf of Mr. Edison and also personally for your kind favor of the 8th instant and also for the letter from your Chief Engineer, Mr. Ray, in regard to obtaining sample of Creosote and data relating thereto.

We have sent over and obtained the sample, which is now being tested by Mr. Edison to see if we can use in place of something else that he has had to import from abroad.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I remain,

Yours very truly,

ASSISTANT TO MR. EDISON.

EPS



*Twiss*

AUG. 10, 1904.

General Naval Stores Company,  
#175 Front Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favors of the 7th and 8th instant, together with the samples of Pine Creosote Oil have been received, and we beg to thank you for your prompt attention to our telephone message.

Mr. Edison wishes me to inform you that he has tested the samples you have sent, but they are not available for the work that he has on hand at the present time. What he is after is cresylic acids, but there is not enough in your samples to make the material available. If you have anything else that you think would be more suitable for his requirements, we should be glad to hear from you.

Yours very truly,

ASSISTANT TO MR. EDISON.

ETB

376  
1477

August 11, 1924.

Mr. P. Hilburn,  
c/o The Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
Stewartsville, N.J.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 10th inst., asking for the return of the report of Daily Business Booked as of August 6th, and beg to hand you the same herewith.

I am afraid I have not made myself clear enough about the necessity for promptness on these reports. Mr. Edison looks for these from day to day, and your report is only one of a series. You should have telephoned me to return this report of August 6th, as you would have saved at least one day. It will be the third day before I can get this report back from you, which means that the whole series of reports will have been held up three days, and Mr. Edison will find fault.

All our other reports come very regularly and promptly, and I would suggest that you be particular about having them fall into the same line.

Yours very truly,

RFS

469

Aug. 13, 1914.

Mr. F. Kilbourn,  
The Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
Stewartsville, N.J.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 12th instant and return your enclosures herewith.

Evidently you do not understand. I will try to make it clear. Mr. Edison wants these reports every day promptly. He wants each report for each day separately, just as you have been doing before. Please do not deviate the slightest from this requirement, and kindly make out separate reports for each day since August 6th and send them to me just as quick as you possibly can. Mr. Edison is getting very impatient on this matter.

Yours very truly,

ASSISTANT TO MR. EDISON.

BTS  
Encls.

454  
486

Mr. Henry Eneu Johnson,  
Belly Road & Lonsdowne Ave.,  
Lonsdowne, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 11th instant, enclosing copy of your application for letters patent on Stereoscopic Motion Picture Film, came duly to hand, and I submitted the same at once to my chief expert on this particular line. I think it will be best to send you a copy of his report to me.

"I have read carefully the application for patent of Henry Eneu Johnson for the production of Stereoscopic Motion Pictures.

"The methods suggested by him are invariably the first ideas that come to anyone desirous of taking stereoscopic negatives in motion.

"There is no difficulty in the way of taking the stereoscopic pair in a motion picture camera.

"The problem in stereoscopic projection is how to differentiate the images of a stereoscopic pair for the right and left eye.

"Persistence of vision does not enter into this at all.

"Stereoscopic vision requires a slight muscular change in the axis of each eye when a change of view point is taken and both eyes are simultaneously concentrated on various objects situated at different parts of the scene and this sensation must be reproduced in viewing a picture to possess stereoscopic vision.

"This necessitates a dissimilarity in the pictures which is seen by both eyes simultaneously results in a confusion in the picture as the images of a stereoscopic pair do not register optically or mechanically.

485  
520

Mr. Henry Eben Johnson.  
Page -2-  
Aug. 14, 1914.

"If the positive is held in the manner he describes and is projected at a high rate of speed we get a confusion of images. If it is run at slow speed of three or four images per second, the positive of the observed appears to be a rapid jerky movement from side to side, such as we would have if we looked at the scene with to and fro movement of the head."

I, therefore, beg to return to you herewith your copy of application for letters patent, together with the drawing attached thereto.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

EFS  
Encls.

*First*

Aug. 14, 1914.

Mr. Walter F. Phillips:  
c/o Columbia Graphophone Co.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Mr. Phillips:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 13th instant, which, together with the enclosures, have been read with a great deal of interest. It seems to me we are never too old to learn, so let me congratulate you, that you, an old time telegraph man, have learned something new about telegrams within the last few days.

If your friend, Mr. Winter, is desirous of making a visit to the Laboratory, I will take care of him when he comes, and try to get a minute or two of Mr. Edison's time to have him greet Mr. Winter. This War has caused us no end of inconvenience, as I suppose the case is with your Company, but Mr. Edison has not ceased to be a giant when confronted with difficulties.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Brown*

RFC

First  
2492

Aug. 14, 1914.

Dr. George L. Scherger,  
Armour Institute,  
Thirty-Third & Federal Sts.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Scherger:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 11th instant, enclosing your biographical article of Mr. Edison, written by you for "Greatest Living Americans".

In accordance with your desire, I have looked over the manuscript, and have taken the liberty of making a few changes in accordance with facts, and have also added a few suggestions in regard to your bibliography at the end, all of which I trust will be satisfactory.

I am returning your manuscript to you enclosed herewith, and have sent you by mail, under separate cover, a photograph of Mr. Edison to which he has appended his autograph.

On my vacation, from which I have returned a few days ago, I had the pleasure of spending several weeks in Maine with Dr. Monin, whom I esteem very

491

Dr. George L. Scherger.  
Page 2  
Aug. 14, 1914.

highly. We had an exceedingly pleasant time together.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Macdonald*

ASSISTANT TO MR. EDISON.

EFS

Encl.



*W. H. C.*  
610

Aug. 17th, 1914.

Barrett Manufacturing Co.,  
Frankford,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to your favor of the 6th instant in which you made quotations on Cresylic Acid, will you kindly inform me in regard to the first two items, viz. Cresylic Acid 97-99% and 95% what percentage they carry respectively of the following:

- Meta
- Para
- Ortho
- Phenol.

An early reply will greatly oblige.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. C.*

*Also W. P. Ortho + Phenol in  
the 95% Grade -*

2

400  
Walt

Aug. 17th, 1914.

Samuel Hill, Esq.,  
Home Telephone 2 Telegraph Co.,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

I have received the globe which you so kindly sent me in accordance with the promise made when you were at the Laboratory sometime ago. It is very handsome and complete, and I wish to express my thanks to you for such a splendid and useful present. The only thing that troubles my mind now is the possibility that some of the boundary lines will have to be changed as a result of the present conflict.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*Twist*

Aug. 18th, 1914.

609

Bayer Chemical Co.,

Bayer.

Elizabeth, N. J.

Gentlemen:-

I received your favor of the 17th this morning,  
and thank you for your prompt attention.

We are now experimenting on the synthetic production  
of phenol by the Benzene Sulphonic Acid alkaline fusion process and  
are getting pretty good yields. This process was used in Germany  
after the English Government put an embargo on phenol in 1890.

Should we succeed in getting the process anywhere  
within a reasonable cost we will move quick, and will be in a position  
to act quickly.

Yours very truly,

*Wm A. Cason*

269

August 18th, 1914.

Mr. A. Kobb,  
Chas. Chipman's Sons,  
349 Broadway, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 14th instant has been received and its contents carefully noted. We beg to thank you for your very kind interest in our records, and also for frankly expressing your opinion in regard to the paring of the selections.

The matching of the selections that you mention was done some time ago when we had comparatively few records ready to be put out for the public. Now that we are increasing our list of selections, we are using more care in the matching, and I think that you will find that there will be less and less incongruity as we grow.

Once more thanking you for your kind interest, I remain

Yours very truly,

475

August 20th, 1914.

Mrs. John Braden,  
Baumann Studios,  
669 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Braden:

I received your esteemed favor of the 15th instant, the contents of which were very carefully noted with a great deal of interest.

I suppose you have been waiting for me to make an appointment for Mr. Edison to give a sitting. I presume you are in no particular hurry for a short time, and if I may suggest that you wait for awhile, possibly a week or two, it would be better than trying to follow up the matter now. The European War has caused a great deal of disturbance in our establishment as well as in many others by reason of the inability to obtain our supplies of chemicals which are very much needed. It is a very serious thing to me as well as to many other manufacturers, and Mr. Edison is exceedingly busy just now trying experiments so that he will be able to substitute other materials or make them synthetically.

I trust you will be content to leave the matter in my hands, and let me advise you as to the most propitious time. You may rest assured that no one else is going to step in, but that I shall look after this matter personally.

Yours very truly,

Wright

August 20th, 1914.

Mr. T. H. Davis,  
Vice President & General Manager,  
Rayway Chemical Company,  
Bayway, Elizabeth, N. J.

Dear Mr. Davis:-

Your favor of the 19th instant has been turned over to me. Let me say for your information that Mr. Edison has ten men working on the synthetic process you mention, and is getting excellent results experimentally. The work is being rushed as much as possible and just as soon as he is ready you will hear from him.

Let me say for your information, and I am sure it will please you, that from this time on he is going to favor American products to the utmost extent. There will be no foreign products come in here if he can get the American equivalent. This is for your personal information.

Yours very truly,

486

August 21st, 1914.

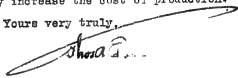
Mr. Henry F. Johnson,  
Baily Road & Lansdowne Ave.,  
Lansdowne, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 17th instant, and in reply beg to say that my experts have tried a vast number of schemes for producing stereoscopic motion pictures, and any opinions they may express are usually from practical experience and not theoretical. Let me say for your information that I have an impression there are several foreign patents issued which cover the general lines of your scheme.

You will probably be surprised to learn that the motion picture houses will not pay anything extra for novelties. We found that they would not pay an extra \$10.00 a week for talking motion pictures. There is not much hope for novelties if they increase the cost of production.

Yours very truly,



P.S. -- I return your "Radiascope".

*Miss*

August 24th, 1914.

The Clayton Aniline Co. Ltd.,  
Clayton,  
Manchester, England.

Gentlemen:-

Mr. Edison directs me to write to  
you to ascertain if you manufacture Paraphenylenediamine.  
If not, will you kindly make him a quotation on Parani-  
tranilin in ton lots. He would also like you to send a  
priced catalogue of your productions.

Yours very truly, May

*W. H. Meadows*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.





August 24. 1914.

Edison Crushing Roll Co..

Stewartville, New Jersey.

Attention Mr. E. S. Opdyke.

Dear Mr. Opdyke:-

Will you kindly advise me whether the following plants using our crushing rolls ~~are~~ in operation, so that I can check up my books:-

Kelley Island (Akron plant) last report April 1914

National Limestone Co.	"	"	"	"
------------------------	---	---	---	---

Dunbar Stone Company	"	"	May	"
----------------------	---	---	-----	---

Tomkins Cove Stone Company	"	"	June	"
----------------------------	---	---	------	---

An early reply will oblige.

Yours very truly.

*Swift*

August 24th, 1914.

Messrs. John W. Leitch & Co.,  
Milnbridge Chemical Works,  
Near Huddersfield,  
Yorkshire, England.

Gentlemen:-

Mr. Edison wishes me to enquire  
whether you manufacture Paraphenylenediamine or Paranitranilin.  
If so, will you kindly quote prices in ton lots. Please also  
send your general catalogue and price list.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Meadows*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Swack*

August 24th, 1914.

The New England Gas & Coke Co.,  
111 Devonshire Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:-

Mr. Edison desires me to ask if you  
make Benzol, and if so, what quotation you can make in  
our load lots.

If you do not manufacture this material  
he would be glad if you would kindly give him the names and  
addresses of Tar Distillers.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Leabours*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

418

August 24th, 1914

Mr. W. H. Matthews,  
3722 Forest Park Boulevard,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Matthews:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th instant, and have since received the two books you kindly sent me. They are very interesting.

You have so many kind words to say about me that I feel much embarrassed to be obliged to disappoint you again in regard to the talking motion picture.

You have been misinformed as to there having been made a talking motion picture in which I appear. For certain special business and family reasons I have agreed not to make a speaking record for the phonograph, and I have never appeared in the motion pictures but twice, once at a private gathering of motion picture manufacturers, and the other at my daughter's wedding. These pictures were of a private nature and there are many reasons why I could not consent to even a semi-public use of them. This I am sure will be quite obvious to you.

I am sorry to disappoint you.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison



August 26th, 1914.

Mr. J. W. Roehlitz,  
The Roehlitz Studio,  
281 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

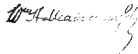
Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 25th instant, the contents of which have been read with careful consideration.

Possibly I am at fault in not having been more explicit in my former letter. While there is no doubt about the artistic quality of your work, the privilege given to Mrs. Braden was accorded not on account of her connection with your Studio, but on account of her other business associations in which we are interested. You will see, therefore, it would be useless for me to enter into any discussion of the matters relating to her connection with your Studio, and I shall have to ask you to excuse me on that score.

Of course, I quite appreciate your wish to have a sitting from Mr. Edison, but unfortunately I shall be unable to make any promise in this direction at the present time. He is exceedingly busy day and night on very important matters, and I know that he would not consent to another appointment at this time. If you will take up the matter with me again in a few months, I will see what can be done, but, of course, I cannot make any definite promise.

Yours very truly,



*Trust*

August 27th, 1914.

Mrs. Elisabeth A. Evans,  
5016 Sheridan Rd.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mrs. Evans:

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 21st instant, and regret to learn that you have had so much trouble on account of illness since last I heard from you. It has been a long siege, but I am glad to learn that you are now out of the woods, and trust that you will remain so.

As to your coming over to the Laboratory again in October to sing for Mr. Edison, he is quite willing that you should do so. I wish you would kindly let know a few days in advance of your coming, so that I may be sure to have an accompanist here.

With kind regards and all good wishes for your trial records, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. Lang*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Frank

August 27th, 1914.

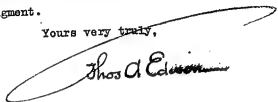
Mr. Albert W. Hartt,  
Newport,  
N. H.

Dear Mr. Hartt:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant, and am glad that you wrote me about your enjoyment of my disc phonograph and records. It is a great gratification to me to know that after the days and nights of hard work in the years that I have spent to make the phonograph a real musical instrument that I have succeeded in pleasing lovers of real music.

We have records of many violinists, such as Carl Flesch, Melia, etc., but none can approach Albert Spaulding in perfection of technique, and I am pleased that you confirm my judgment.

Yours very truly,



Thomas A. Edison



August 27th, 1914.

Mr. C. B. Haynes,  
C. B. Haynes & Company,  
121 West Broad Street,  
Richmond, Va.

Dear Mr. Haynes:

Your favor of the 21st instant came  
to hand, and I beg to say in reply that we have still some  
more records by Anna Case, and I hope to take many more when  
she gets back.

Yours very truly,



*Wick*

August 27th, 1914.

Mr. T. J. Parker,  
General Chemical Co.,  
25 Broad Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

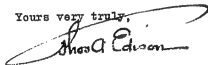
When things are normal we use about 25 pounds of Paraphenylenediamine daily. Until the last few weeks we purchased it regularly from the National Anilin Works, New York. They got it from a Buffalo concern whom they represent. When we originally started to use it we were told they had 50,000 pounds in stock. We ourselves have been carrying about 2,000 pounds in our stock.

A few days ago I asked the National Anilin Works whether they would be able to take ~~orders~~ of us, to which they replied that they didn't have a pound in stock, and I could not get any satisfaction as to when they would have any. I cannot resist the conclusion that they simply sold out to speculators, thus leaving at least one regular customer in the lurch. We paid them 50 cents a pound.

I am supplied for 90 days and intended to import from England some Paranitrannilin and reduce it myself, but as I learn your people make Anilin oil, I thought I would state these facts to you and see if you would not like to do this yourselves and sell the Paraphenylenediamine to me.

I am very glad to get the tables on Sulphuric Acid, which you sent to me through Mr. Meadowcroft; also the pamphlet, which I have read. Your prompt action in regard to the Hydroquinone is appreciated.

Yours very truly,



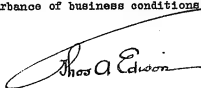
Thomas A. Edison



August 27th, 1914.

## TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:-

This is to certify that Mr. Thad D. Smith has been in my employ, as draftsman, for nearly three years. His work has been satisfactory. He is laid off because of the disturbance of business conditions caused by the European War.

  
Thomas A. Edison

First

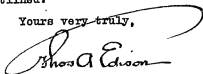
August 27th, 1914.

Mr. J. H. T. Tudsbery,  
% The Institution of Civil Engineers,  
Great George Street,  
Westminster, S. W.,  
London, England.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your circular letter  
of the 30th ultimo concerning the disposal of the balance  
of the Kelvin Memorial Fund, and beg to inform you that  
I am in favor of the recommendation of the Executive  
Committee as therein outlined.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas A. Edison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

August 31st, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Sayre,  
184 Tonnele Avenue,  
Jersey City, N. J.

Dear Friends:

Your favor of the 24th ultimo was forwarded to Mr. Edison, who was much gratified to learn that your disc phonograph has given you so much pleasure.

He has given instructions to have a record made at once of the song "I hear you calling me", and in due time you will be able to get it. You will appreciate, of course, that it takes some weeks to put this through the regular course of manufacture.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

2001  
August 31st, 1914.

Hon. E. W. Townsend,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Townsend:

I want to thank you for your favor of the 26th instant. Let me say for your information that the State Department obtained the consent of the English State Department to lift the embargo in my name so as to permit me to have 50 tons per month of Carboic Acid. Today, however, I received a cable stating that the British Board of Trade did not agree with the English State Department and are hesitating. So I may not get it after all.

Replying to your question why we cannot make chemicals here in this country, I would say that if you and your friends in Congress will get together at once and pass a Bill similar to that which the Canadians have passed to prevent "dumping" in this market, (Canadian Customs Tariff, R.S. 1906, Sec. 18.), it will be a builder in this country and make America dominant in the chemical trade.

We need no protective tariff, - just stop this dumping business and that will do the trick. You can doubtless get a copy of the Canadian act at Washington.

The German chemical industries maintain very smart representatives in this country. The moment they hear of some small capitalist going into the manufacture of some special chemical material, down goes the price and the jig is up. The monied men get scared and withdraw.

The waste of raw materials in this country on this account is awful.

Yours very truly,  
*Alfred C. Brown*

Trans  
663

Sept. 1st, 1914.

Hon. William J. Bryan,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Bryan:

If you can get your friends in Congress to pass a Bill similar to the one the Canadians have passed, to prevent "Dumping" by the Germans into the United States of America, it will build up our Chemical industries. The Bill I refer to relates to Canadian Customs Tariff, R. S. 1906, Sec. 12.

The Germans have extremely adroit agents in this country, and every time a small man attempts to start manufacturing one or more of the standard chemical productions the Germans cut the price. The money men backing our chemist withdraw, and the jig is up. This is very unfair. We don't want any protective tariff. Just pass the Canadian Dumping Bill and we can block the game of our German friends.

Our waste of raw material in this country is awful.

Yours very truly,

*Shackleton*

I have written our representative Mr Townsend on

*this subject*

E

First

Sept. 2, 1914.

Mr. Kaspar Siedler,  
447 No. Oak St.,  
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 28th ult., to Mr. Edison has been received, and we beg to say in reply that a record of the "Watch on the Rhine" was made at our Recording Laboratory only yesterday. It will have to go through the various processes of manufacture before it can appear on our list of records. Unfortunately for your purpose this will take several weeks, but we shall try and hurry it through so that the public may have it as quickly as possible.

Yours very truly,

First

Sept. 4th, 1914.

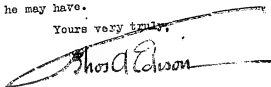
Messrs. William F. Gray & Co.,  
76 William Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to the telephone conversations  
between Mr. Meadowcroft and your Mr. Clifford Dixon today,  
I beg to say that I am willing to take the two car loads  
of Benzole at thirty to thirty one cents per gallon,  
assuming that it is 90% Benzole.

You might say to your friend that I shall  
be glad to have an opportunity of bidding on any surplus  
supply of Benzole he may have.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature, likely "Clifford Dixon", written in dark ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be written over a horizontal line.



First

Sept. 4th, 1914.

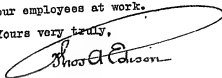
Hon. William Hughes,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hughes:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 2nd instant enclosing a letter from the State Department regarding the exportation of carbolic acid from England to United States, and thank you for your very kind attention in the matter.

I think that the conditions imposed on such importations will enable us to still maintain our factory in operation and keep our employees at work.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Thomas A. Edison". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

First

Sept. 4th, 1914

Mr. S. Irvine,  
36 Elysian Avenue,  
Pittsburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 1st instant to Mr. Edison has been received, and we thank you for your kind attention.

Mr. Edison requests us to say that we are large users of Carbolio Acid, and use Benzol to manufacture it synthetically by the sulphonic process, which is now in operation. Should you at any time have an excess of Benzol, we would ask you to kindly advise us.

Yours very truly,

*Edison Co.*

First

SEPT. 4th, 1914.

Hon. John V. Leshar,  
% House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2nd instant in regard to Mr. John Cruikshank, and would say in reply that from the tone of his letters, which indicated his utter lack of information as to the state of the art, we concluded that he was demented, and therefore paid no attention to him. The fact is that neither I nor any other American inventor has been able to get a valid patent on talking motion pictures on account of patents in foreign countries antedating us.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas A. Edison

First

September 8, 1914.

Brentano's.

Fifth Ave. & 27th St.,

New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Will you kindly renew the subscriptions  
of the various periodicals, sent to Thomas A. Edison,  
Junior, Burlington, New Jersey, upon their expiration,  
as per your letter of the 4th instant.

Kindly send bill to the Laboratory and  
oblige.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Miller*  
Secretary.

First

Sept. 8th, 1914.

Mr. Geo. W. Soper,  
Editor, The Iron Age,  
239 West 39th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 8th instant has been received. In reply I would say that Carbolie Acid is not obtainable in this country as our tars contain scarcely any: hence we are dependent on England and Germany.

I am the largest single user of Carbolie Acid here, and the embargo placed on shipments by England, together with the impossibility of obtaining any from Germany, has put me in a pretty tight place. However, by massing a big gang of men in three shifts I have erected all the machinery and apparatus for making Phenol synthetically from Benzol, and my plant is now working, but I shall manufacture only for my own use in the production of phonograph records.

It occurs to me that there are many things we are short of in the chemical line that could be made, here quickly if some people in the trade would act - not talk.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*First*

Sent. 9. 1914.

A. I. Clymer, Esq.,  
Van Wert, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Clymer:-

Your letter of the 15th ultimo received.

We are just holding our own as far as profit is concerned. Truck sales by the manufacturers have almost dropped to Zero, and railroads are buying very few batteries for lighting purposes.

Mr. Ford is not yet satisfied with the model of his electric, altho he has made three and is now testing his fourth one. We are prepared to give him all the batteries he wants.

The Beach company failed because their business methods were dubious. A New York banking firm has taken over the business and have sold several cars. They say as soon as the war is more settled they expect to do a large business.

We have no trouble with the battery in cold weather. A car and two trucks ran last winter in Fairbanks, Alaska; and up in Winnipeg, Canada, there are more than a dozen cars that went thru two winters.

If things were only normal we could be making lots of money. If Ford succeeds our profits will be very large.

Yours very truly.

*W. L. Ransom*

First

Sept. 10th, 1914.

Mr. Malcolm Colclough,  
Ottawa,  
Canada.

Dear Sir:-

Your daughter informs me that you have retired from the Grand Trunk Railway after fifty two years service. I am pleased to hear of you after the lapse of so long a time, and trust you may live many years to enjoy the rest which your extended service has fairly entitled you to.

Yours very truly,

  
J. A. C.

First

Sept. 10th, 1914.

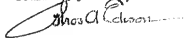
Dr. Arthur P. Holding,  
103 Park Avenue,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 5th instant, together with photographs illustrating cancer cases before and after treatment. Allow me to thank you for your letter and for the privilege of looking at these photographs, which are returned herewith. I am rather curious to know whether your method of treatment is by the Xray or some other special plain electrical treatment that you use. The results certainly look good, and if I had time I should accept your invitation to witness a demonstration of your methods, but I am tied up here day and night with my extensive work.

I should be glad if you will kindly let me see a copy of your article when it is published in the Medical Journal.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison



First

Sept. 18th, 1914.

Mr. George H. Babcock,  
Brooklyn Borough,  
Kings County, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your recent favor, we  
beg to say that your copy of the little book "Tuskawanta"  
sent to Mr. Edison was received and has been handed over  
to him. He has been exceedingly busy for several months  
past, and has not yet had time to read it, but ■■ soon ■■  
he has leisure will look it over.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

Sept. 12th, 1914.

Dr. L. E. Hirschberg,  
1937 Madison Avenue,  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 11th instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He requests us to say in reply that he is much obliged to you for your frank expression of opinion in regard to the bringing out of records of dance music, but asks that you will kindly bear in mind that our diamond disc machine is comparatively new, and that we are building up our catalog. To this end we are hastening to get in position to put out the very latest dance music and also other musical selections of recent publication.

Up to date we have issued the following records of dance music, and more ~~are~~ being recorded all the time:

The Poin Waltz	-	Boston
El Rio Rey	-	Tango
Muy Lindo		
Pastime Rag		
San Souci	-	Maxixe
Admiration Waltz	-	Boston
Mauna Tango		
La Paolista		
Dreaming	-	Hesitation Waltz
Adele	-	" "
Isle d'Amour		
Mac faaa Issa		
Amafa	-	Maxixe
Maori Tango		

Yours very truly,

EDISON LABORATORY.

First

Sept. 11th, 1914.

Mr. Herman H. Hoexter,

Dear Sir:-

I have received a copy of the Century Opera House Magazine in which there appears an article written by you, entitled "The Phonograph", which I have read with a great deal of interest.

If you can spare the time to run over to the Laboratory some day, I shall be very glad to have a chat with you, and think I can show you something new and interesting, but I would suggest that you telephone my Assistant, Mr. Newcomb, so as to make sure that I shall be here at the time you intend calling.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

447

Sept. 11th, 1914.

Mr. W. S. Mallory, President,  
Edison Portland Cement Co.,  
St. James Building,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Mallory:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 10th inst. in regard to Mr. Eugene H. Grubb. He called here and had quite a conversation with Mr. Edison after he had visited the farm at New Village. He made an exceedingly favorable report to Mr. Edison about the work that Mr. Kiefer had done.

According to the best of my recollection, when Mr. Grubb came here a few months ago he volunteered to go up to the farm and look things over. I am quite sure that Mr. Edison did not ask him to go, and I know for a fact that no definite arrangements were made as to his going in any official capacity.

Nothing was said or hinted at on his recent visit to Mr. Edison that he would expect any fee, and, as a matter of fact, I do not think that he will expect any remuneration from Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

*W. S. Mallory*

First

Sept. 12th, 1914

Wilson Remover Company,  
115 Chestnut Street,  
Newark, N. J.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 9th instant to the Edison Storage Battery Company has been handed over to Mr. Edison. He requests us to say in reply that we shall only make carbolic crystals for our own use. He states that there is a Chemical Works in Pittsburg intending to make Carbolic Acid Crystals. He does not recall the name at this time. He also understands that the Barrett Manufacturing Company are to erect a plant for the same purpose.

Mr. Edison asks us to say to you that he has about 40,000 pounds of pure Germm Crystallized Ortho Cresol, in cans, which is for sale. If you can use any of this, he will be glad to get your offer. It is a more powerful disinfectant than Carbolic.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. Wilson*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

7/4/14

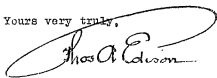
Sept. 12th, 1914.

Mr. Joe Mitchell Chapple,  
The National Magazine,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Chapple:

Replying to your favor asking me to write you something on the subject of "How's Business?", let me say that if I should write you an answer it would be necessary to bring in the subject of the war. Therefore, I think it is better to wait a little while until things are more clear.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thos A Edison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Thos A Edison".

First

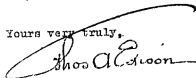
Sept. 12th, 1914.

Mr. H. E. Heitman,  
% The H. E. Heitman Co.,  
Ft. Myers, Fla.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 8th instant has been received. In reply let me say that I do not agree with you in regard to the Dock, and I do not intend to spend any more money until I am obliged to. The whole place is a sink hole for money.

Yours very truly,

The signature is written in a cursive script. The first part of the signature is a large, stylized 'T' that loops around. The name 'Bacon' is written in a more standard cursive hand.

609

Sept. 14th, 1914.

Bayway Chemical Co.,

Bayway,

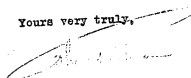
Elizabeth, N. J.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 12th instant in regard to the crystalized Ortho Cresol has been received. In reply I beg to say that I am willing to sell what I have on hand at seven and one half cents per pound, which is just what it cost us.

Of course, you understand that it is first come first served, and this offer is subject to prior sale.

Yours very truly,





*First*

Sept. 15th, 1914.

Mr. Van Voorhis Glase,  
18 Alpine Street,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 25th ultimo, together with your description and drawing of a mechanism to be placed within a motion picture camera for the purpose of producing stereoscopic effect was received.

I have had one of my experts go carefully over your description and drawings, and have received a report from him that the same is impracticable. The following is an extract from his report:

"I have carefully studied the description given and accompanying pencil sketch of the device for producing stereoscopic motion pictures, and my opinion is that such a device for taking motion picture negatives stereoscopically will have many serious objections, the most serious ~~one~~ I think is whether it will be possible in the brief period of time between the successive exposures to shift the mechanism that claws the film and carries the sprocket wheels for feeding the film from the upper to the lower rotort, a distance of  $2\frac{1}{5}$  inches, bring it to a dead stop in register and lock it as rigidly as to arrest any independent vibration between it and the lens and shutter bearing elements. This must all be accomplished in not more than a  $\frac{1}{25}$  of a second, to be at rest during exposure. Having made a negative and positive print from it, there is still the inherent defect in the method proposed for projection that persistence of vision will convey the impression of a rapid to and fro movement of the eyes as a confusion of the two images, as the right and left eyes are continually seeing

✓  
Mr. Van Voorhis Close,  
Page -2-  
Sept. 15th, 1914.

both images of the stereoscopic pair.

We have many simple ways of obtaining the stereoscopic negative images and printing devices for arranging them on one film for side projection or segregating them for two projection machines, but no solution, at least none that appears practical, other than to use alternating shutters operating synchronously for the right and left eye consecutively, or to differentiate the images with the colored spectacles of red and green. By superimposing the red image on the left eye of the stereoscopic pair upon a green image for the right upon one strip of standard perforated film and viewing with the colored spectacles, we get a perfect stereoscopic motion picture."

While I thank you for your kind offer to turn this idea over to me without charge, I cannot make use of the same on account of its impracticability. I therefore return your description and drawing herewith.

Yours very truly,

*First*

Sept. 15th, 1914.

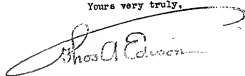
Mr. Henry Gavin,  
233 Riley Street,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Our Mr. Gardiner has called on me this morning and handed to me the portrait you made of me in oil colors. It is a very creditable piece of work, and it give me much pleasure to accept it and to thank you for the kindly sentiment which prompted you to paint it.

Thinking you might like to have one of my photographs I send you one by this mail.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Edison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "A".

58

Sept. 15th, 1914.

Hon. William J. Bryan,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Bryan:

In reply to your favor of the 9th instant relating to "Dumping" by the Germans into the United States permit me to say I entirely agree with you that there will be no dumping while the war continues.

Let me repeat, however, that if you wish to build up an American chemical industry, now is the time to pass the Dumping Act. We need it now.

Nobody will invest money in a chemical works at this time, for they know that when the war is over the Germans will start the old game and ruin them. You prevent the Standard Oil from going into a community and ruining the small refinery and yet the Germans are permitted to do a parallel thing.

Yours very truly,

Pho A Edison

first

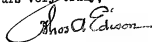
Sept. 15th, 1914.

L. C. Gorsuch & Company,  
74 Fountain Sq.,  
Springfield, Ohio.

Gentlemen:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 12th instant, and in reply beg to remind you that our disc business is comparatively new and that we are building up a catalogue and must put in all the old standard ballads and other selections. You must remember also that in a list of fifty records divided up into eight sections, ~~some~~ sections will be weaker than others. We are now recording every new piece of music of any value as fast as it comes out.

Yours very truly,



P.S. Suggest Times.  
Z

First

Sept. 16th, 1914.

Mr. R. H. Donnelley,  
227 Fulton Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Will you please send at once by express to my assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft, at this address, ~~me~~ copy each of Classified trade telephone directory of following cities, ~~me~~ per telephone conversation of today:

Brooklyn	Milwaukee
Albany	Providence
Buffalo	Rochester
Chicago	Troy
Cincinnati	

You will find check for \$8.00 enclosed, in payment

for same.

Will you do ~~me~~ the favor to note ~~me~~ enclosed sheet where I can obtain similar classified trade telephone directories of the cities named thereon, and return the sheet to Mr. Meadowcroft.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*Handwritten signature*

Trust

Sept 18, 1914.

Mr. John J. Riley,  
864 Eagle Ave.,  
Bronx,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Riley:

Mr. Edison says you can come on  
Monday morning and begin the work. He  
will start you at \$40 a week.

If you like, you can come in  
by the train leaving Hoboken at 8.20 - Possibly  
I may be on same train. You can wait  
for me at entrance of Track 9 - I expect  
my son will be with me.

Yours very truly,

W. H. Ladd

656

Sept. 18th, 1914.

Mr. J. M. Hamilton,  
348 Hummel Street,  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 16th instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He suggests that if you happen to be going over to New York City, you can call in our Recording Studio, #79 Fifth Avenue, New York City and see Mr. Nathan L. Miller, who will make a test phonograph record for you. Mr. Edison further suggests that you sing "Mattinata" or "Sweetest Story ever Told", so that we may compare the records with something that we already have. If you intend going over to New York, you could write Mr. Miller in advance and make an appointment with him.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, let me state that we do not pay the expenses of singers coming to our place for a trial.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Edwards*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



Sept. 18th, 1914.

Proudfoot Commercial Agency,  
Singer Building,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Proudfoot:

Mr. Edison has asked me to write to you and find out what you think about the Salvation Army, from which he receives occasional requests for financial assistance, and has answered some of them favorably. He does not care to have you go into any exhaustive report, but state generally whether you think it is all right to assist occasionally.

In regard to Col. Martin, we have decided not to have any dealings in that direction, and therefore you need not go any further in making reports on him.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

635

Sept. 18th, 1914.

Geo. F. Taylor Commission Co.,  
80 Pine Street,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 15th instant, which has been placed before Mr. Edison for his consideration. He requests me to say in reply that he could not use the lower grades that you mention, and as to the Carbonate of Potash, the price is too stiff for us.

Thanking you for your prompt attention, I am

Yours very truly,

*James H. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Sept. 22nd, 1914.

Mr. Joe Coiling,  
138 Central Avenue,  
Hackensack, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 18th instant, let me say that I have had my Florida House painted this year. I believe there is considerable construction work going on at Fort Myers, but am unable to say whether or not there would be any opening for you.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison  
ME

First

Sept. 22nd, 1914.

Mr. A. C. Phelps,  
1332 St. Mary Street,  
New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 14th instant has been received. If you will send copies of your songs to me at this address I will have them played and sung to me, and if any of them are found desirable for the phonograph we can talk of business arrangements later on.

Yours truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*TAE

*First*

Sept. 22, 1914.

H. R. Gibson Realty Co., Inc.,  
Forty Second Street Building,  
30 East 42nd St., New York.

Dear Sirs:

Replying to your letter of the 17th inst., regarding the property at No. 10 Fifth Ave., New York. I would say that I will sell the same for just what I paid for it, viz: \$113,742.00. There is a \$75,000.00 mortgage on it at 5%. In addition to what I paid for it, I have expended thousands of dollars in improvements and alterations.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

First

Sept. 22nd, 1914.

Mr. Allan L. Benson,  
1 Arthur Street,  
Yonkers, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Benson:

I duly received your favor of the 18th inst.  
enclosing clipping of your article from The World. In  
reply let me say that while your scheme is desirable, it  
seems impracticable. On the whole, I am so discouraged  
by this War that I feel it is useless for me to say anything.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas Edison*

**General Letterbook Series**  
**Letterbook, LB-099 (1914-1915) [not selected]**

This letterbook covers the period May 1914-February 1915. It contains letters of transmittal and other correspondence concerning the procurement of materials and supplies. The spine is stamped "Letters," but there are no other markings on the cover or spine. The book contains 693 numbered pages, all but 19 of which are blank.

**General Letterbook Series  
Letterbook, LB-100 (1914)**

This letterbook covers the period September-November 1914. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. Included are letters concerning chemical shortages during World War I, Edison's opinion of Jewish bankers and industrialists in Germany, and the feasibility of constructing concrete houses in France and Belgium after the war. Other documents pertain to Edison's property at 10 Fifth Avenue in New York City; demonstrations of the disc phonograph; and commemorations in honor of Edison and electric lighting. The correspondents include Herbert L. Satterlee, a biographer of J.P. Morgan; longtime Edison associate Thomas Commerford Martin; reformer Lillian Wald; and financier Jacob H. Schiff of Kuhn, Loeb and Co.

The front cover is marked "T. A. E. From Sept. 23, 1914. To Nov. 25, 1914." The spine is marked with similar information, along with the number "38." The book contains 703 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 15 percent of the book has been selected.



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First

Sept. 22nd, 1914.

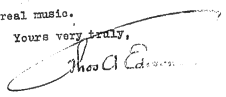
Mr. Geo. D. Moulton,  
141 Milk Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Moulton:

Allow me to thank you for your very interesting letter of the 17th instant and for the suggestions contained therein. I also want to express my appreciation of your kindness in sending the list of calls for the old time dances. I have given instructions to get the music of all these dances, and will then see what can be done about recording them for the phonograph.

It affords me much gratification to learn that you are enjoying the Diamond Disc Phonograph. I have put a great deal of hard work into it during the last three or four years and, naturally, it is very encouraging to learn that I have pleased lovers of real music.

Yours very truly,



Sept. 23rd, 1914.

Mr. Howard Shelley,  
Century Opera Co.,  
62nd and 63rd Streets,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 21st instant to Mr. Edison has been received, and he requests me to say that he will be glad to see you tomorrow if you wish to come out here. I would suggest as the best time either between 9 and 12:30 in the morning or between 2 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

It might be well for you to telephone me in advance of your coming, so that I will try to keep him free of appointments for the hour you mention. Our telephone number is 908 Orange.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

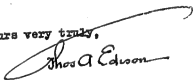
Sept. 23rd, 1914.

Mr. O. P. Earlan, Vice Pres.,  
The First National Bank,  
Stamford, Texas.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of  
your favor of the 11th instant, and would say in reply  
that our five concerns have each bought a bale through the  
Houston Phonograph Company, and these bales have been paid  
for. You will see, therefore, that we have already attended  
to our part.

Yours very truly,

Thomas Edison

first

Sept. 24th, 1914.

Miss Lillian D. Wald,  
265 Henry Street,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Wald:-

I am in receipt of the joint invitation of yourself and Miss Addams to meet with some friends for a round tableconference on Tuesday next, and beg to express my appreciation of your courtesy and confidence in inviting me to this meeting.

Owing to the great disturbance of business conditions due to the War, I am overworked, and regret I say it will be utterly impossible for me to get away, notwithstanding my earnest desire to do so.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rosa A. Edison". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

First 186  
~~187~~

Sept. 26th, 1914.

Bayway Chemical Company.  
Bayway.  
Elizabeth, N. J.

Gentlemen:-

For the present we are storing drums of Benzole out  
doors under tarpaulins, and Mr. Edison wants me to inquire of you  
whether that is all right or not. He wishes to know whether the  
drums leak or must they be stored in a building; also whether Benzole  
will be injuriously affected by any cold snaps or continued cold  
weather.

Yours very truly.

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Sept. 25th, 1914.

Rev. George Drew Egbert,  
77 Bowne Avenue,  
Flushing, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 22nd instant, and beg to say in reply that I shall be very glad indeed to see you and show you around the Laboratory at any time that will suit your convenience. I am usually here every day from 9 to 4:30, except Saturday when I try to get away in the afternoon. I expect that Mr. Edison will be here every day, so there is every probability that you would be able to shake hands with him.

If it is possible, I would suggest that you drop me a line a day or so in advance of your coming.

Yours very truly,  
*Wm. L. Lang*



First

Sept. 25, 1914.

Mr. H. N. Heitman,  
Fort Meyers,  
Florida.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 22nd  
instant regarding the dock, Mr. Edison wants it  
patched up only so as to prevent any accident.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

First

Sept. 25th, 1914.

Mrs. H. S. Latimer,  
208 Lefferts Avenue,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 22nd instant has been received. In reply we beg to say that if you will go to our Recording Rooms, at #79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and hand this letter to Mr. Walter H. Miller, the Manager, he will make a cylinder trial record of your voice and send it over to Mr. Edison for his hearing at the Laboratory.

If you prefer, you can write to Mr. Miller with this letter and make an appointment with him for a definite date.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Miller*

First

Sept. 25th, 1914.

Mr. F. Mersfelder,  
435 Fourth Avenue,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Mr. Mersfelder:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 23rd instant, and would say in reply that Mr. Dolhart's trial record is in the factory undergoing the factory processes, and we shall not be able to obtain the mould for hearing until about a week or ten days from this time. Of course, Mr. Edison would not pass any opinion in the matter until he has heard the trial record, so there would be nothing more that he could say for the present.

As soon as the record comes through, I shall drop you a note and you can come over and hear it.

Yours very truly,

*First*  
*77*

Sept. 25th, 1914.

Mr. A. R. Murray,  
113 W. 95th Street,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 21st instant came duly to hand. Its contents were noted carefully, and I laid the whole matter before Mr. Edison. He appreciates very much your great interest in his machine and records, and has read the advertising paper that you submitted. He desires me to say to you that our advertising men have already used most of the arguments you set forth, as he is afraid that we cannot make any trade such as you suggest. I therefore return your paper to you herewith.

Mr. Edison asked me if I knew a little more about you, that is to say, your age and what sort of business you are engaged in. I told him you were a stranger to me, but I would ask the questions. If there is no objection to advising me on these points I shall be very glad to hear from you again.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Sept. 25th, 1914

Mr. R. F. Eldridge,  
 141 West Fifth Street,  
 St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Eldridge:

Mr. Meadowcroft has shown me your letter to him of the 10th instant, and also the sample copies of the Jolly Elk. The coincidences of every day life are very remarkable, and it was certainly odd that my assistant should have hit upon an old acquaintance of mine in writing to get some information for me.

I thank you for your kind wishes in regard to myself, and trust that the world has used you well in the years that have elapsed since last we met.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

*First*  
*131*

Sept. 25th, 1914

Mr. C. B. Frayer,  
Edison Storage Battery Co.,  
2025 Michigan Avenue,  
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Sir:-

I have been looking over a long list of returned cells from Chicago from different people, and I do not understand why we have as much trouble, except it may mean that our Inspection Department is either inadequate or incompetent.

Please forward to me at the Laboratory, hereafter, the daily reports of the inspectors, signed by the owners of the batteries, so that I can keep a line on them. I will then turn them over to the Battery company here. Chicago is the only spot that we have had any serious trouble.

Yours very truly,

*Shoos Edison*

First

Sept. 26th, 1914.

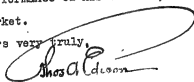
Mr. G. B. McLean,  
Manager New Business Dept.,  
Pacific Light & Power Corporation,  
624 Pacific Electric Bldg.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 18th instant, and would say in reply that there is a basis of fact that Mr. Henry Ford is considering the putting upon the market of an electric vehicle in which my storage battery will be used.

So far as I am concerned, I am ready with my battery, but Mr. Ford is still experimenting on the vehicle. He has had made and tested four different types of car, and from those experiments is building his fifth. I presume that when he has satisfied himself with the performance of his vehicle, he will be ready to put it out on the market.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas Edison

First

Sept. 29th, 1914.

Mr. Philip J. Sullivan, National Sect'y,  
Ancient Order of Hibernians in America,  
Thompsonville, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 26th instant, and also of a copy of the Directory of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America for 1913-1914.

In behalf of Mr. Edison, I desire to thank you very much for your prompt and liberal response to my letter.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Edison*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



First

September 29, 1914.

Mr. H. C. Thompson,  
Owen's, Ill.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I have read the letter which Mr. Asa P. Potter has written you under date of the 24th instant, and note that he has given you quite clearly the main points of the general plan which I explained to him when he called upon me. The carrying out of this plan has been entrusted to an organization of specially trained men whom I have had at work several weeks.

It will be the purpose of this organization to build upon here a large force of men who will give recitals in various cities. For instance, I expect to put about fifteen men in New York City alone, where they could be kept busy for several years (if needed) in giving recitals to the numerous and varied organizations in that city. Thus I expect to cover the entire country from a central organization located here.

As I explained to Mr. Potter when he was here, it was his duty to have him arrange for and give recitals in the night clubs and the homes to which he could obtain an entrance. This was to be done without the slightest attempt at commercialism in any way, and I said that possibly, after some months of experience in this line, he might be able to form a connection with the "Becons," who are now picking up a store on Fifth Avenue for the sale of our photographic records.

For the recital work, as above outlined, Mr. Potter would come under the management of my special organization. He would receive one hundred dollars a month. There would be no conditions connected with this uncommercial exploitation.

Should he later form a commercial connection with the "Becons," which is entirely independent of my organization, he would be free to make some arrangement with them looking to salary and commission. As to that, I cannot, of course, speak positively, as I have no voice in the management of their business.

I shall be glad to be advised as to whether or not Mr. Potter would like to make an early start with us on these lines, as I am now preparing to put my men out on the firing line very soon after the beginning of the coming month.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

Sept. 30th 1914.

W. H. Gray & Co.,  
76 William St.,  
New York City, N. Y.  
Attention Mr. Clifford Dixon

Gentlemen:-

I am offering the 40,000 pounds of Ortho Cresol crystals at seven and one half cents a pound, F. O. B. our works at Orange, N. J. If you make a sale at this price I am willing to pay you a commission of two and one half per cent.

It must be understood that this material has been offered to others, and I shall sell to the first person who is willing to take it.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Palmer*  
1914

Sept. 30th, 1914.

Mr. Laurence H. Luoker,  
515 Marquette Avenue,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

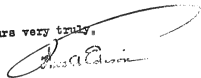
Dear Mr. Luoker:

I am in receipt of your favor enclosing a list of Norwegian songs that you say you would like to have recorded both for disc and blue amberol. I am having the music of these selections looked up for me.

Inasmuch as all the Norwegians understand English, let me ask whether it would not be permissible to translate the best of these songs into the English Language and have them sung by some of our first class singers.

I would like to hear from you on this point.

Yours very truly,



First  
109

Sept. 30th, 1914.

Lebanon Chemical Company,  
932 Cumberland Street,  
Lebanon, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 28th instant has been received. In reply I beg to say that it requires quite an elaborate and expensive lot of machinery and apparatus to make synthetic carbolic acid. We only intend to make enough for our own use.

As you desire it for disinfectants, why do you use carbolic, while carbolic with one atom of Methylene added to it and called Cresol is a much more powerful disinfectant, and can be obtained in this country?

I have 40,000 pounds of pure crystallized Ortho Cresol, imported from Germany in tin cans. I will sell this at seven and one half cents per pound. I formerly used it for making varnish, but found that the regular carbolic acid would give me better results. For your purpose, however, Cresol is better, and if you adopt Cresol you will be able to get crude Cresols in the United States in any quantity.

I will have a sample of the Ortho Cresol sent to you by mail today.

Yours very truly,  
*Wm. A. G.*

Sept. 30th, 1914.

Mr. Frederick W. Starke,  
21 Edison Terrace,  
West Orange, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 28th instant, in regard to refined phenol. Let me say in reply that I am making carbolic acid synthetically from Benzol, at our Silver Lake Chemical Works. The plant is in operation. We are producing right along.

If you would like to call in and see me, I shall be pleased to have you do so. If you will ask for my assistant, Mr. Meadowcroft, he will arrange for an interview.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas A. Edison

100  
406

Oct. 1st, 1914.

Pfalts & Bauer, Inc.,  
300 Pearl Street,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 26th ultimo in regard to synthetic carboric acid, and would say in reply that as I have constructed my plant on a basis of manufacturing only for my own use, I shall be unable to accommodate you by letting you have any of my products.

Regretting my inability to help you out,

I remain

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

43  
150

Oct. 2nd, 1914.

Mr. Frank E. Hering, Managing Editor,  
The Eagle Magazine,  
South Bend, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Hering:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 29th ultimo, and would say in reply that perhaps I might have been a little more explicit in my previous letter in stating the reason of Mr. Edison's desire to obtain a directory of the various lodges of your Order.

Mr. Edison has created a new epoch with his new Diamond Disc Phonograph, by means of which he is able to record and reproduce music as perfect as the original. He is very anxious to have this heard by the public under the most favorable conditions, and has therefore been giving a large number of complimentary music recitals for clubs, churches, associations, etc. These recitals are entirely complimentary wherever they are given, and do not cost a single cent to the recipient. Usually the program is sufficient for a whole evening's entertainment.

Mr. Edison is sending out ten men from the Laboratory to make these recitals, and feels sure that the members of various lodges would be highly pleased and delighted with the service of any recitals so given for them. His only object in compiling the Directory mentioned was to be able to correspond with the officers of the various lodges in regard to giving a musical evening for them. Let me say that at such recitals our demonstration does not make any attempt or say one word in regard to sale, as business is merely to give the concert. The only commercial angle in the transaction is that Mr. Edison wants to establish the reputation of his instrument, and incidentally to obtain some for the same.

Trusting that with this explanation you will be able to accommodate Mr. Edison, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Lullendown*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

108

*First*

Oct. 2nd, 1914.

Prof. Jay L. Chesnutt,  
215 Harvard Street, S. E.,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Sir:-

I want to thank you for the unsolicited words of praise contained in your favor of the 28th ultimo. Having worked hard day and night for about four years on the development of my disc phonograph and records, aiming at a high standard, it is certainly encouraging to me to learn that the results are appreciated by discriminating lovers of high class music.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*



100

Oct. 5th, 1914.

Lebanon Chemical Co.,  
332 Cumberland Street,  
Lebanon, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

Replying to your favor of the 2nd instant we beg to say that the Ortho Cresol would be most suitable for your purpose. The carbolic acid coefficient, i.e., the disinfecting power, of Ortho Cresol is considerably higher than pure Carbolic Acid, and you would have to use only about two-thirds of the Ortho Cresol in quantity as compared with Carbolic.

Cresol is soluble in all the agents in which Carbolic acid is soluble, and it can be liquified by slightly heating it, just the same as Carbolic Acid.

The pink color of your preparation can easily be obtained, when using pure Cresol, by adding a trace of an aniline dye, as for instance, Safranine. The shade obtained, which is a little too bright, can be dulled by adding a small amount of Coal tar oil or a low grade Creasote (dead oil).

We are mailing you a sample which we have prepared from our Cresol, and which matches your product fairly well. It contains 10% Cresol and should be equivalent in disinfecting powder to a Carbolic preparation containing 15% or more of Carbolic Acid.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

72101

Oct. 6th, 1914.

Miss Elizabeth Bonner,  
1720 So. 58th Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 3rd instant to Mr. Edison has been received. He will be very glad to have you make a trial record, but in order to do this you will have to call at our New York Recording Rooms at your convenience. They are located at #79 Fifth Avenue, and if you will present this letter to the Manager, Mr. Walter H. Miller, he will make a cylinder record of one of your songs and send it over to Mr. Edison for his hearing.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory

First  
187

Oct. 6th, 1904.

Mr. Asa P. Potter,  
1 East 39th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Potter:

Your favor of the 2nd instant has been handed to me by Mr. Thompson, and I have talked with Mr. Edison regarding the matter.

Your understanding of the proposed arrangement is substantially correct except that you will be located in New York City and not in Orange.

If you will kindly call here tomorrow or Thursday and see either me or Mr. Riley, your connection with our concern may commence at once.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

739P  
138

Oct. 5th, 1914.

Mr. O. B. Freyer,  
Edison Storage Battery Co.,  
4008 Michigan Ave.,  
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Mr. Freyer:-

I must ask you to excuse the delay in acknowledging the receipt of the muskallonge you so kindly sent me. It came to hand in good time and in splendid condition. I enjoyed eating a liberal portion of it, and want to express to you my thanks ~~for~~ your kindness in remembering me with such a fine specimen of your process as a fisherman.

Yours very truly,

Howard Edison

First  
399

Oct. 6th, 1914.

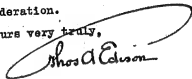
Mr. W. A. Steadman,  
Butler,  
Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Your postal card of the 29th ultimo to the  
Euehn Phonograph Company has been forwarded by them to me. I  
regret very much to learn of your dissatisfaction with the 11th  
supplement. I am doing my very best to bring out such records  
as will be satisfactory to dealer and the public so far as we can  
judge.

I should be greatly obliged if you would kind-  
ly favor me with the names of some of the selections which you  
would consider good and new. If you will send this to me personal-  
ly at your early convenience I shall be very glad to get it and will  
give the matter prompt consideration.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas A. Edison

7108

Oct. 8th, 1914.

Mr. D. W. Jayne,  
Chemical Department,  
Barrett Mfg. Co.,  
Frankford, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

We consulted with our friend, Mr. P. J. Parker of the General Chemical Company, who referred us to you through your New York Office.

Mr. Edison is desirous of obtaining a Still for redistillation of Benzol from 80% up to 98 or 99%. He finds it very difficult to get any adequate information about such a Still, and finds especially that wherever he has inquired they say they cannot deliver for two or three months.

As you distill benzol in your works up to a high point, Mr. Edison wonders whether you can give him any information as to the obtaining of a Still for his own purposes here. Any light you can throw on this subject will be greatly appreciated, especially if you can put Mr. Edison on track of getting such a Still without having to wait such a long time.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Mr. Edison would build his own still if he  
could get the necessary material.

Hand

Oct. 8th, 1914.

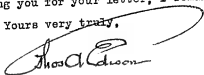
Miss Elizabeth F. C. Clark,  
1709 Pine Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Miss Clark:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 20th ultimo, and would say that I have read it with a great deal of interest. It affords me much gratification to learn that it was my son-in-law who happened to come at an opportune time to save you and your friend when you were in such an awkward plight. He always impressed me as a fine type of man, and I am glad that you had the good fortune to experience his sense of right.

Thanking you for your letter, I remain

Yours very truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely "Isaac Edison", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

*Trust*  
*209*

Oct. 9th, 1914.

Mr. Kendall Banning,  
44 East 23rd Street,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Banning:

I beg to say in regard to your favor of the 1st instant, that Mr. Edison has been so exceedingly busy during the last week or ten days, that it has been almost impossible to get a minute of his time, but I have consulted him in regard to your desire to use a fac-simile of the "Don't Talk - Act!", and as I told you when you were here, he does not wish to have this done. He thinks it will be quite sufficient to copy the letter from the Iron Age.

I received your article, and there is considerable change to be made in it. It is impossible for me to get at this today, but I shall hope to get at it tomorrow and send it to you then.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



Oct. 9th, 1914.

Baltimore Bargain House,  
Baltimore,  
Md.

Gentlemen:-

The Edison Storage Battery Company recently sent me a sample bottle of the water such as is used by you for your Edison Storage Batteries. I have had an analysis made of this, which I understand is the City water, and now write to you in regard thereto.

While this is not distilled water, your batteries would probably fulfill the four year period which we guarantee, but not much longer, if this water is used in them constantly.

If good distilled water is used in your batteries, instead of the City water, we believe they will last two or three years longer than our guaranteed period. Thus, it will pay you many times over to use distilled water.

We do not quibble on small things, nor do we use the argument of neglect in order to crawl out of a guarantee, as is often the case, but we know what the batteries will do if distilled water is used, and it puts us in the position of gambling on future results by using bad water. You had better save your investment and get more out of it by using distilled water. There are several forms of inexpensive apparatus on the market for making distilled water.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*First*

Oct. 9th, 1914.

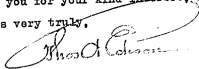
Mr. H. S. Jones,  
Spencer,  
Iowa.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 5th instant to my Company has been handed to me, and I want to say in reply that your suggestion about recording Juanita is a good one, and I shall proceed to carry it out. We will get it into our list of records as soon as possible.

Thanking you for your kind interest, I remain

Yours very truly,



109  
198-199

Oct. 9th, 1914.

Lebanon Chemical Company,  
933 Cumberland Street,  
Lebanon, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

Replying to your favor of the 7th instant, I beg to say that no filler was used in preparing the sample which I sent you. It consists of nothing but slacked lime, cresol with a trace of Safranine to color it, and a little Creosote oil to dull the bright odor given by the Safranine.

It order to answer your inquiry as to how many pounds of Cresol are equal to one gallon of Carbolic Acid, we must know what grade of Carbolic Acid you are in the habit of using. Kindly send me a sample of the product you are now using and let me know under what specifications you are buying it. Please address this sample to my assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft at this address.

As to quantity of Cresol, I beg to say that I can supply at the present time up to about 40,000 pounds. Of course you will realize that this offer is made subject to prior sale, as we have several inquiries concerning it.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. Johnson*

103  
340

Oct. 9th, 1914.

Mr. T.C. Martin,  
% National Electric Light Assoc.,  
29 West 39th Street,  
New York.

Dear Martin:

I have received your favor of the 6th instant containing your suggestion in regard to the rehabilitation of Belgium and the Northern part of France after the cessation of the War by means of poured cement houses.

Your idea is a very good one, but unfortunately I am not ready to take it up. When I took up the Disc phonograph about three and a half years ago, I had to lay aside the project of the poured house for the time being. At that time the moulds were about 60% completed. I have never found time to resume work on this subject.

I am so overworked at the present time, that it is simply impossible for me to take up anything beyond the subjects I am at present engaged upon, but I do hope at some future time to take up the cement house proposition again and finish it.

Yours very truly,

*Edison*

1917

Oct. 9th, 1914.

Mr. P. B. Shaw,  
Williamsport,  
Pa.

My dear Shaw:-

Meadowcroft has shown to me your letter to him of the 8th instant in regard to obtaining a letter of introduction for your friend to Henry Ford.

If there were any one in the World that I would be willing to do this for it is you, but I shall have to be consistent and treat you as I have treated everybody else and ask you to excuse me from complying with your request. It is just this way, my relations with Mr. Ford are of a social as well as of a business nature, and owing to the delicacy of these relations, I have never yet introduced anybody to him, and he does not give letters of introduction to me. You can very well imagine that I am overwhelmed with requests of this kind, but I have treated everyone alike. I hope you will appreciate the spirit of my action in adopting this policy.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

Edison

First

Oct. 12, 1914.

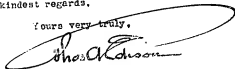
Mr. G. W. E. Atkins.  
Vice President.  
Western Union Telegraph Co.,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Atkins:-

I am somewhat tardy in notifying you, but  
take pleasure in letting you know that I have seconded Mr. King's  
nomination of yourself as a member of the Essex County Country Club.

With kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles A. Edison", enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

134  
14-39

Oct. 13th, 1914.

Prof. Chas. Baskerville,  
College of City of New York,  
140th Street & Convent Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 10th instant and sample of slate has been received, and I have called the same to Mr. Edison's attention. He has instructed the factory to ship to you one hundred pounds of the kind of <sup>stone</sup> that you want. The order has been turned over to the factory, and they will call you up on the telephone to ask more specific directions for shipping.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. C. Wood*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Oct. 13th, 1914.

Mr. A. A. Hassan,  
Crimora Manganese Corporation,  
15 Broad Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your favor of the 10th  
instant let me say that I was only after the Cobalt in  
Manganese, but now get all I want from Canada.

Yours very truly,



174  
348

Oct. 13th, 1914.

Lebanon Chemical Company,  
#932 Cumberland Street,  
Lebanon, Pa.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 12th instant has been received.,  
together with your sample of carbolic acid, 97%, which you have  
been accustomed to use.

We beg to inform you that from 5 to 5½ lbs. of our  
ortho cresol are equivalent in bactericidal effects to one gallon  
of this carbolic acid.

When you prepare your product with our cresol, you had  
best fuse the ~~same~~ by application of gentle heat, <sup>adding</sup> the  
liquid thus obtained by adding a small amount of a red aniline dye,  
for instance, safranin base, obtainable from the Heller & Merz  
Company, Newark, New Jersey. Next you add a small amount of a dark  
colored cresote oil to dull the bright color imparted by the  
aniline dye, and then proceed as usual.

Should you desire to operate with exactly the same  
volumina as you used with carbolic acid, you can bring up the volume  
of the cresol by adding either water or, preferably, a  
hydrocarbon oil of suitable density. This, however, we think is  
not necessary.

✓  
Lebanon Chemical Company.

-2-

Oct. 13th, 1914.

If you desire any further information on the  
matter, we shall be glad to furnish it.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Macomber*  
ASSISTANT TO MR. EDISON.

EFS

*First*  
*221*

Oct. 13th, 1914.

Mr. William H. Scheel,  
#159 Maiden Lane,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Will you kindly reply to the following at your  
earliest convenience:

1st - Can a regular supply of sandarac be obtained,  
that can be relied upon?

2nd - Does the price fluctuate much?

3rd - Is the quality even or is it greatly variable?

4th - You have one ten and half in stock; could you  
procure an additional supply at once; if not, how long would  
it take, and how much could you obtain.

I hesitate to use it if the supply is inconstant  
or the price subject to great fluctuation.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas J. Scheel*

EFS

Oct. 13th, 1914.

Messrs. Blake and Burkart,  
Walnut at Eleventh Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

Replying to your favor of the 7th instant in regard to Grand Opera records, let me say that I have had recorded nearly every good Grand Opera record by the principal Opera artists in every city in Europe, but I have thrown them out. There is scarcely one in a hundred of those singers that have passable voices. The public infer that their reputation is due to their voices, whereas it is almost entirely due to their acting, the voice being secondary and very unnatural. These voices are specially trained to give great volume in order to fill the large auditoriums, but when heard on the Concert stage without scenery or other stage surroundings and environment, these voices are generally absurd and ridiculous, as they are also on the phonograph.

I shall put on all that do not produce ridiculous results.

Yours very truly,

*W. G. C. E.*

70 ✓  
Oct. 16, 1914.

Professor Luigi Romano,  
Laboratory.

Dear Sir:-

Mrs. Wilson and our family all wish to join with  
me in expressing thanks for the very handsome confection which you  
so kindly presented to us a few days ago. We have all enjoyed it  
greatly.

Yours very truly,

*Shas. A. Wilson*

*Just*

Oct. 19th, 1914.

Mr. L. E. Proudfoot,  
Singer Building,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Proudfoot:

Enclosed I beg to hand you an application  
to Mr. Edison for assistance on behalf of the New Jersey  
Children's Home Society. He would like to have a report  
from you about this Society.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. C. C. C.*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Oct. 19th, 1914

Mr. J. C. Rieger,  
Broadway and Baxter Ave.,  
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 6th instant,  
the contents of which have been read with a great deal of interest.

Let me say in reply that 90% of the bad blasty  
notes that you refer to are due to trouble with the singers' vocal  
chords. We formerly thought that the trouble was due to the  
phonograph itself, but we found on close examination that it was  
not. Thorough investigation proved that we did not get it in  
instrumental music, but found it only in singers' voices.

Yours very truly,

547  
Oct. 19th, 1914

Mr. William H. Scheel,  
159 Maiden Lane,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I must ask you to kindly excuse the delay in getting off a confirmatory letter in regard to the small order I sent you over the telephone on Friday of last week. Mr. Edison went away for a week or ten days yesterday, and there was so much to do in preparation for his going that I was unable to get the letter off to you.

I now beg to confirm the telephone order given you for 5 pounds each of Gum Acroïdes, Gum Fater, Indian Gum, Madaya Gum and Rubber Pitch.

Confirming also what I said over the telephone, let me now say that if our experiments with the Gum Sandarac turn out as well as they promise, Mr. Edison will not shop around, but will get you to take care of his requirements so far as he was at the present time.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.



Oct. 20th, 1914.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Roger W. Babson, Pres.,  
Babson's Statistical Organization,  
Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Dear Mr. Babson:

Mr. Edison received your favor of the 16th instant, and read it with a great deal of interest. He has gone away for an automobile trip, and will not return for a week or ten days. Before leaving, he asked me to write and say to you that the idea you suggest is a very good one, but at the present time we have not enough phonographs in the hands of the public to warrant the expense that would be involved in carrying out your idea.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*236*

Oct. 20th, 1914.

Prof. J. R. Mines,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 7th instant to Mr. Edison was received and perused with much interest. He requests us to say to you in reply that we shall be interested in the subject you mention sooner or later, but just now the disturbance of business conditions owing to the War has upset everything so much that our educational work is being held back for the time being.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Bayway Chemical Company,  
Bayway,  
Elizabeth, N. J.

Replying to your favor of the 15th instant,  
Mr. Edison requests me to say that he does not think we can use  
the Cresols. The Condensite Company are experimenting with  
them, and they do not have the problems to contend with that Mr.  
Edison has. You might write them. They are at Glen Ridge.

Yours truly,

And to Mrs Edison

First

Oct. 21st, 1914

F. Bredt & Company,  
240 Water Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I use about twenty five pounds of Paraphenylenediamine per day, and have enough on hand to last me until January next. Then I shall have to buy it == make it from Myrbane, or Aniline Oil.

Now, what ~~can~~ you do for me? Can you provide a continual supply of Paraphenylenediamine (Commercial)? If not, ~~can~~ you quote me on a regular supply of Myrbane or Aniline Oil made from pure Benzol with but a small amount of Toluidine contained therein?

Awaiting your early reply, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Frederick Bredt*

First  
262

Oct. 21st, 1914

Mr. Eugene H. Briggs,  
12 Francis Avenue,  
Greenwood, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Are you still open to the consideration of a proposition for introducing one of Mr. Edison's new inventions? Only a moderate amount of capital would be necessary.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. McAdams*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Oct, 21st, 1914

Compagnie Parisienne de Couleurs d'Aniline,  
9 Rue du Faubourg Poissonniere,  
Paris, France.

Gentlemen:-

We use about twenty five pounds of  
Paraphenylenediamine, (Commercial) each day, and have al-  
ready on hand a supply to last until about January 1st, 1915.  
Can you furnish me with 300 to 400 Kilos  
per month? If so, please quote a price for same f.o.b.  
Steamer at a French or English port.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*First*

Oct. 21st, 1914

Mr. Frank H. Coyne,  
60 State Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

Are you still open to the consideration of a proposition for introducing one of Mr. Edison's new inventions? Only a moderate amount of capital would be necessary.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*First*

Oct. 21st, 1914.

Mr. Andrew J. Farrell,  
920 Penn Street,  
Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Are you still open to the consideration of a proposition for introducing one of Mr. Edison's new inventions? Only a moderate amount of capital would be necessary.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.



First

Oct. 21st, 1914.

D. O. Haynes & Co.,  
3 Park Place,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

Will you please enter my subscrip-  
tion for one year for "Weekly Drug Market", and send the  
same to me here at the Laboratory?

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison  
27 Rue

*21st*

Oct. 21st, 1914

A. Harvey's Sons Mfg. Co. Ltd.,  
Detroit,  
Michigan.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 12th instant came  
duly to hand, and I have also received since the "Wrench  
with a Backbone", which you have sent me with your com-  
pliments. Please accept my thanks for your courtesy.

Yours very truly,

Mr. Edison left after this letter was dictated.

First  
504

Oct. 21st, 1914.

Messrs. Harger & Blish,  
611 Walnut Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 13th instant to Mr. Walter Miller was forwarded by him to Mr. Edison, who has instructed us to save the music you sent and let him hear it on his return. He has gone away for a week or ten days on an automobile trip, and we expect him back in the early part of next week.

In regard to the selections that you mention, let me say that we have made "My Croony Melody", also "I want to go back to Michigan" by Band and also Vocal. Mr. Edison will pass on these upon his return.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Oct. 21st, 1914

Manufactur Lyonnaise de Matieres Colorantes,  
5 Quai Brotteaux,  
Lyon, France.

Gentlemen:-

We use about twenty five pounds of  
Paraphenylenediamine, (Commercial) each day, and have al-  
ready on hand a supply to last until about January 1st,  
1915.

Can you furnish me with 300 to 400  
Kilos per month? If so, please quote a price for same f.o.b.  
Steamer at a French or English port.

Yours very truly,

200

*Final*

Oct. 21st, 1914.

Mr. W. Irving Morse,  
South Woodstock,  
Conn.

Dear Sir:-

Are you still open to the consideration of a proposition for introducing one of Mr. Edison's new inventions? Only a moderate amount of capital would be necessary.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Oct. 21st, 1914

Mr. F. A. Rumpf,  
Stamford,  
Conn.

Dear Sir:-

Are you still open to the consideration of a proposition for introducing one of Mr. Edison's new inventions? Only a moderate amount of capital would be necessary.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

2002

Oct. 21st, 1914.

Mrs. K. I. Southworth,  
2617 Broadway,  
Toledo, Ohio.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 14th instant to Mr. Edison has been received, and he requests us to say that he will look into the matter of recording "Are You Going to Dance", and will probably put it on the list a little later. Just now we have a tremendous lot of music recorded, enough to fill up our lists for several months, and it may be some little time before we put out the record above mentioned.

Mr. Edison desires us to express his gratification on learning that you enjoy your machine and records so much.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

Oct. 21st, 1914.

Societe Anonyme des Matieres Colorantes  
et Produits Chimiques de St. Denis,  
105 Rue Lafayette,  
Paris, France.

Gentlemen:-

We use about twenty five pounds of  
Paraphenylenediamine, (Commercial) each day, and have al-  
ready on hand a supply to last until about January 1st,  
1915.

Can you furnish me with 300 to 400  
Kilos per month? If so, please quote a price for same f.o.b.  
Steamer at a French or English port.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas C. ...*



First

Oct. 21st, 1914

Mr. Orlando Thayer,  
42 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Are you still open to the consideration of a proposition for introducing one of Mr. Edison's new inventions? Only a moderate amount of capital would be necessary.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Oct. 21st, 1914

Mr. Frank M. Tracy,  
131 East 45th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Are you still open to the consideration of a proposition for introducing one of Mr. Edison's new inventions? Only a moderate amount of capital would be necessary.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Mr. Ernest Newton Bagg,  
P.O. Box 817,  
Springfield, Mass.

Your letter to Mr. Edison was received, but after his departure for the West, where he has gone to spend a few days. Therefore you will see that it was not in time to give an answer to the question that you ask in regard to the favorite tunes of Mr. Edison.

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*First*

Oct. 23, 1914.

Mr. James Gayley,  
555 Park Ave.,  
New York City. N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Edison has been so extremely busy of late that his correspondence has lacked prompt attention. He has gone away for a short time, but before leaving asked me to inform you that ~~the~~ method of securing ammonia you refer to consists of passing Hydrogen and Nitrogen ~~was~~ finely divided iron at a red heat. This method is used by the Badische Co, Ludwigshafen, Germany.

Yours very truly,

*H. H. Head*

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Oct. 23rd, 1914.

Mr. Julian Harris, Sunday Editor,  
The New York Herald,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 19th instant to Mr. Edison has been received, together with page proof of an article by Mr. Leon Goldmerstein.

Mr. Edison is away, and will not return until sometime next week. In the meantime, let me say for your information that Mr. Edison has been asked many times for his views on matters concerning the War, but has uniformly declined to give any publicity to his views on that subject. As it would be impossible to make any remarks or give an interview in regard to the subject of Mr. Goldmerstein's article without touching on the War, I am very sure that Mr. Edison would ask to be excused.

I therefore return the page proof to you herewith.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*First*  
*4/16*

Oct. 27th, 1914.

Miss Mary Adele Case;  
110 East 31st Street,  
New York City.

My dear Miss Case:

I am afraid you will think that I am entirely without manners to leave a lady's letter so long unanswered. The fact is, I have been up to the ears in work for the last few weeks and I am only just beginning to see the bottom of my desk.

Mr. Edison has not heard any singers for some little time past, and is now away in Detroit. I expect him back in a few days, and when he returns and has disposed of his accumulated work, I will call attention to your matter and see if we cannot make another appointment for you.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Lullabow of 6*

*First*

Oct. 27th, 1914.

McGraw-Hill Book Company,  
229 West 39th Street,  
New York.

Gentlemen:

Your circular letter in regard to the two books by Mr. Frederick H. Wagner has come in Mr. Edison's mail this morning. He is away in Detroit at the present time, but will return in a few days.

I think ~~we~~ would probably like to see the book entitled "Coal Gas Residuals", and would suggest that you mail a copy of it to me so that I can lay it before him for his examination when he returns.

Of course, I cannot say for sure whether ~~we~~ not he will take it, but if he does not want it I will return it to you promptly after he has seen it.

Yours very truly,

*H. I.*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Oct. 27th, 1914.

Rosenstein Piano Company,  
406 North Howard Street,  
Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:-

Your circular letter of the 24th instant, copy of which you have sent to Mr. Edison, has been received this morning, and we know that he will read it with a great deal of interest when he returns from Detroit, where he is spending a few days.

I see that you are following up Mr. Edison's favorite idea, that is of giving recitals. He is a great believer in this way of doing business, and it has been bringing good results to our dealers wherever it has been tried. Just now we have a large force of men in New York who are doing nothing but giving these recitals at various places.

In Mr. Edison's absence I am going to enclose you a letter which we have received from the Brantly Baptist Boys' Brigade, asking us to make a donation for their Bazaar. We have such applications by the thousands, and of course we cannot make donations of this kind, as it would bankrupt us.

The reason I am writing to you is to send you the letter and see if you want to arrange to make a recital at this Bazaar. Possibly you may think it worth while to do so if you can get the proper facilities, such as a quiet room, etc. I forward this letter to you, leaving it entirely to your judgment as to whether you think it would do you sufficient good to take the matter up. The suggestion is for your possible benefit.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Stearns*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



101  
517

Oct. 30th, 1914.

Lebanon Chemical Co.,  
932 Cumberland Street,  
Lebanon, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to your favor of the 27th instant, we beg to say that your previous letter ordering 50 pounds of Ortho Cresol to be shipped to you ~~was~~ received in due course, and the material was sent out by express the same day. Immediately on receipt of your favor of the 27th instant, we started a tracer after it, and have been hoping to be able to give you some result of this tracer, but so far we have heard nothing, however, the matter is being followed up.

We trust that you will have received the shipment before this reaches you.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Oct. 30th, 1914.

Mr. Herbert L. Satterlee,  
49 Wall Street,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Satterlee:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 28th instant, and would say in reply that I shall be more than pleased to be of assistance to you in connection with getting the story of Mr. Morgan's friendship with Mr. Edison in the old days. As you are probably aware, Mr. Edison is away from the Laboratory, but I expect he will return in the early part of next week. As soon as he has had an opportunity of clearing up a lot of work that has accumulated during his absence, I shall take the matter up with him and write you further in regard to an appointment.

I think there will be no objection at all to your bringing Miss Boynton with you, as she then can take notes of the conversation that you have with Mr. Edison. However, I will write you about the whole matter later on.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Ford*  
*664*

November 2, 1914.

Dear Mrs. Oeser:

Enclosed find draft on Berlin for \$600.00,  
covering August, September and October remittances.

I have been waiting until I heard from  
you to be sure of your correct address.

Your father is on a trip to Mr. Ford at  
Detroit, and he has visited his boyhood home at Port  
Huron, Michigan too. He is motoring there and back,  
we expect him in a day or so. He is well.

I trust this will find you well and that  
the war will soon end and bring your husband back to you  
safely.

Yours sincerely,

*H. M. Ford*

Mrs. Marion E. Oeser.  
Postlagernd.  
Neuenburg, Baden.  
Germany.

*First*

Nov. 3rd, 1914.

Miss Joan McDonald,  
% Mrs. Samuel Kilson,  
25 West 67th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 31st ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received. If you wish to make a trial record of one of your songs, we would suggest that you present this note to Mr. Walter H. Miller at our Recording Rooms, #79 Fifth Avenue, New York City. He will make a trial record of a song and send it over to Mr. Edison for his hearing.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. Miller*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Foran*

Nov. 4th, 1914.

Mrs. Mary B. Ehrmann,  
Hotel Sinton,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Madam:-

Replying to your favor of the 28th ultimo, I would say that your books of songs for children were sent to me by Mrs. Ilseu sometime ago. I have looked them over, rather hastily I must admit, but have not yet been able to ~~come~~ to any conclusion about putting any of these songs on the Diamond Disc record.

This year has been an exceedingly busy one for me, and my time and attention have been given to a number of important matters day and night throughout the year. Our factory and Recording Department are also busy up to the limit in putting out records of standard music. You will please bear in mind that my Disc Phonograph is a comparatively new production, and we are obliged to first get out a large catalog of standard musical selections, after which we shall be able to take up specialties.

So far as our business is concerned, your songs ~~will~~ under the latter head, and I shall hope to look into the matter more closely when we have our standard catalog to the proper dimension.

Yours very truly, *Thomas A. Edison*

Final

Nov. 4th, 1914.

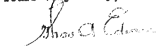
Mrs. Isa M. Ilsen,  
Hotel Seymour,  
44 West 45th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Madam:-

I am informed that you have called while I was away to see me about the possible continuation of your demonstration work. During my absence I have given the whole matter a great deal of thought and have finally decided to consolidate all our demonstration work under one department. This department has been already established and Mr. J. J. Riley has been made its Manager, as you are aware. Mr. Riley has been given full charge of this department, including the engagement of demonstrators, and I would suggest therefore that you call on him next Monday at 10 Fifth Avenue in regard to making suitable arrangements to continue in the work. I do not see that an interview with me would avail anything, as I am busy that I have been obliged to leave all details to Mr. Riley.

I would suggest that you see Mr. Ireton this week and close the arrangements under which you have been working in the past.

Yours very truly,

  
J. J. Riley

83  
476

Nov. 4th, 1914.

Messrs. Pfaltz & Bauer,  
300 Pearl Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Referring to the telephone conversation of today between you and Mr. Meadowcroft, I beg to say you may enter our order for one ton of paraphenylenediamine, at sixty cents per pound, provided it is of the same quality as sample submitted some six or eight months ago, and provided that it can be delivered in the United States of America within two months from this date.

Yours very truly,

*Phos A. Carson*

Nov. 6th, 1914.

Mr. John Wanamaker,  
Jenkintown,  
Pa.

My dear Mr. Wanamaker:

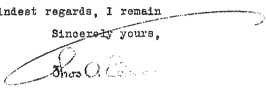
I received your kind invitation by telegraph while I was in Detroit. On my way home I started for Jenkintown, but got badly lost and had to make for my home as night was coming on. If the latch string still hangs out, I will gladly try it again at the first opportunity.

I was glad to see that Mr. Ford has a fine picture of you (about three feet square) hung up in his private office.

On my return, I find in my home a very handsome chair from you with your card of congratulations and regards on the recent anniversary of the incandescent lamp. Allow me to express my thanks to you for your beautiful present and especially for the kindly sentiment which prompted it.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

John Wanamaker



*First*

Nov. 6th, 1914.

Mr. Henry C. Demming,  
15 North Third Street,  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Mr. Demming:

Allow me to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 4th instant and to thank you for your kind congratulations and good wishes. I am glad to say that I derived a great deal of enjoyment from my recent automobile trip to Detroit, and am feeling first rate.

Trusting that you are enjoying life, and with kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. C. C. C.*

*Wm. C. C. C.*

Nov. 6th, 1914.

Mr. R. M. Geddes,  
Richardson's,

23 Shudehill,  
Manchester, England.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 12th ultimo, and the Blue Book issued by His Majesty's Government came while I was away on an automobile trip, but having now returned to the Laboratory I beg to acknowledge receipt of same and thank you for your kind attention.

Yours very truly,

*First*

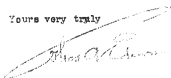
Nov. 6th, 1914.

Heller & Morz,  
22 Cliff St.,  
New York City, N. Y.

Gentlemen:-

Please forward to my Laboratory at your earliest  
convenience, samples of all the nigrosine and indulin dyes you  
have in stock. And oblige,

Yours very truly



335

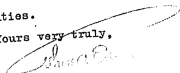
Nov. 6th, 1914.

Dr. Nevil Monroe Hopkins,  
2158 Bancroft Place,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Hopkins:

On my return to the Laboratory after an automobile trip to Detroit, I find your favors of the 24th and 28th ultimo, and would say that I should prefer not to have my name included in your Committee. I am busy from sixteen to twenty hours a day, and am quite desirous of keeping out of matters of a public nature, as the additional work which such publicity makes for me is somewhat of a burden when it is added to my present duties.

Yours very truly,



Nov. 6th, 1914.

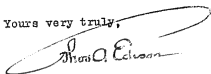
Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt,  
660 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Vanderbilt:

I have been much interested to learn that you recently bought one of my new disc phonographs. How do you like it?

Why don't you motor over to the Laboratory some day. I shall be very glad to see you. You might telephone in advance to my assistant, Mr. Meadowcroft, to make sure of my being here.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

177

Nov. 9th, 1914.

Miami Copper Company,  
61 Broadway,  
New York.

Gentlemen:-

Referring once more to our correspondence with your Mr. Westlake, we beg to say that Mr. Edison on his return from Detroit has requested us to write and say that Phenol is 45 cents per pound as against 7-1/2 cents for the Ortho Cresol which he is offering. He wishes us to say further that Cresol is Phenol with the addition of one atom of Methyl.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

406

Nov. 9th, 1914.

Pfaltz & Bauer,  
300 Pearl Street,  
New York.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 5th instant has been received. When your Mr. Pfaltz was here the other day we forgot to ask him whether you are in position to obtain Hydroquinone. We use two or three hundred pounds a month. Will you kindly ascertain whether your consignor can make shipment of this material, and if so at what price it can be furnished.

Yours very truly,

*Edison*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Sept. 2th, 1914.

Mrs. F. Cuman Ray,  
3 Chopin Place,  
Hartford, Conn.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 3rd instant to the Edison Phonograph Toy Mfg. Company has been forwarded to the Laboratory. We regret to be compelled to inform you that it will be impossible for you to have the talking dolls restored to their former usefulness. It is true that they were made here, but they were manufactured on account of the Edison Phonograph Toy Mfg. Company, which went out of existence some years ago. All the tools and parts have long since been dismantled or destroyed, and we do not know of any way by which you could have the dolls restored to working condition.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*J. M.*



387

Nov. 10th, 1914.

Mr. Edward Bromberg,  
158 West 21st Street,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Bromberg:

I find that it will be sometime before Mr. Edison will be able to hear singers personally, so I think it would be well for you to go down to our Recording Office, at 470 Fifth Avenue and make another trial record, which will be sent over to Mr. Edison for his hearing.

I would suggest to you that you sing for this record the Evening Star from Tannhauser if it is in your repertoire. This would enable Mr. Edison to compare it with one of our standard records.

Yours very truly,

*H. L. Hanson*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

428  
624

Nov. 10th, 1914.

Mr. W. H. Miller,  
179 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Miller:

Mr. Edward Bromberg, who is a friend of some friends of ours, went down to your place sometime ago and made a record, but it was not sent over here.

As this is a matter in which we are desirous to please our friend, we have asked Mr. Bromberg to come down again and make another record. Will you please have this one sent over to Mr. Edison so that he can hear it?

Yours very truly,

*J. B. ...*

First

Nov. 9th, 1914.

Mr. S. G. Bayne, President,  
The Seaboard National Bank,  
16 Broadway, New York City.

Dear Mr. Bayne:

Your favor of the 21st ultimo was received at my office while I was away on an automobile trip to Detroit. I have returned, and now beg to answer your inquiry in regard to the coffee which I use, and would say that it is the Kaffee-Haag, which has been advertised a good deal in the periodicals and also in the street and other cars.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. Schenck*

*First*  
*560*

Nov. 11th, 1914.

Mr. W. H. Gartley,  
Engineer of Works,  
The United Gas Improvement Co.,  
Broad and Arch Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Gartley:

Your favor of the 9th instant to Mr. Hutchison  
has been handed by him to me.

The Benzol matter is ~~and~~ of ~~some~~ importance to  
me and I would run over to Philadelphia to see you, but just  
now am working day and night on ~~some~~ problems which demand my  
personal attention. Beside, I am expecting any moment to be  
called away for a few hours to appear as a witness in a law suit.

Could you not spare the time to come over here and  
see me, so that you and I can discuss this whole matter? Let  
~~me~~ suggest that you first telephone my assistant, Mr. Meadowcroft,  
to make sure I shall be here. If you will let him know what  
train you are coming on we will have an auto meet you at Newark  
and bring you out here.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. A. Edison*

246

Nov. 10th, 1914.

Hon. Robert H. Gittins,

Niagara Falls,

New York.

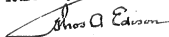
My dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 16th ultimo was received at the Laboratory during my absence in Detroit, where I went on an automobile trip. On my return, there was a mass of accumulated matters awaiting my attention; hence the delay in the acknowledgment of your letter.

I must confess to no small degree of embarrassment in seeking to express my feelings in regard to the great compliment which has been paid to me by the Joint Resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the honor therein proposed to be conferred on me. If the result of my work has been to contribute anything toward the welfare of our race and country I am more than gratified, as my labors in the years past have been undertaken with that as object in view. The seeking or expectation of honors has never been in my thoughts, consequently, the one now proposed by yourself and colleagues has come upon me in the nature of a surprise, and all I can do is to express my thanks and grateful appreciation.

Allow me also to express my sincere thanks to you for your many good wishes. I can only hope, in view of these expressions of esteem and honor, that I may continue to wear the same size of hat to which I have been accustomed.

Yours very truly,



Nov. 11th, 1914.

Mr. E. M. Herr, President,

Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co.,

East Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Mr. Herr:-

I am attaching a true copy of a circular letter which has been sent out by your Company in considerable number.

The manner in which a forty-five ampere Edison Storage Battery is compared with a twenty-two ampere Lead Battery, even if the cost per hour to charge the Edison Battery were correct, causes the Edison Battery to appear to very great disadvantage and with resultant damage, the inference being that an Edison Battery requires twice as much energy to charge it, for a given capacity, as the Lead.

I am under the impression that this letter was sent out without your knowledge or consent, and feel sure that on my calling your attention to the matter you will cause another letter to be sent to each recipient of the letter referred to, showing the error and correcting the data.

You will, no doubt, remember that this is the second time literature derogatory to the Edison Storage Battery has been sent out by your Company, and that you were kind enough to correct the former error.

Thanking you in anticipation of your early action in this matter, I remain

Yours very truly,

First

Nov. 10th, 1914.

Mr. Edmund V. Parr,  
% Bruns, Kimball & Co., Inc.,  
115 Liberty Street,  
New York City.

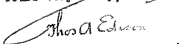
Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 3rd instant to my Company was handed to me, and I am much gratified to learn that you are so much pleased with your Diamond Disc phonograph. It is a source of much pleasure to me to learn from our customers that the results of some years of hard work on my part are meeting with the approbation of lovers of good music.

Now in regard to your complaint about several of the records, let me say that your dealer ought to be able to supply you with Rubinstein's Melody in F, also with the Last Rose of Summer. If he has not got them in stock, let him write a letter to the factory or to his jobber and order them to be specially sent. As to Cavalleria Rusticana, I would say that this record is being manufactured now, and will be out before a great while. I was not satisfied with the original records and there has been some delay in getting it out. The same remarks apply to the selection from the Tales of Hoffman. We are pushing these forward as fast as is practicable, and I hope they will be ready for our customers before very long.

I see you realize some of the difficulties of getting out a large catalog of standard selections. We are filling up on this line as fast as possible, and are adding several numbers each week. We have recorded the patriotic selections and also some Christmas music, and these also you will be able to get in a short time.

Yours very truly,

  
Thos A. Edison

First

Nov. 9th, 1914.

Mr. H. A. Russell,  
General Electric Co.,  
Rialto Building,  
San Francisco, Cal.

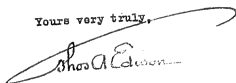
Dear Mr. Russell:

On my return to the Laboratory after my absence of a little over two weeks I find your favor of the 22nd ultimo. When I read it and Circular Letter XXXIII and the verses, I feel a sense of regret that I wasn't with you. Evidently you had a fine time together, and I am glad of it.

You are freely forgiven on account of the telegram which you framed up as coming from me. I don't think I could have done better myself.

Let me thank you for all the kindly sentiments of yourself and your associates. I appreciate it all very greatly.

Yours very truly,

Sherrill A. Edison



525  
661

Nov. 13th, 1914.

Mr. W. H. Gartley,  
% The United Gas Improvement Co.,  
Broad & Arch Streets,  
Phila., Pa.

Dear Mr. Gartley:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 12th instant, and beg to say that so far as I know I shall be here all day on Monday of next week, and shall be very glad indeed to see you and also Mr. Thompson and Mr. Fulweiler. I think it would be a good thing for them to come with you, as we could then discuss the whole problem, and it is one of some importance to me, and may result in some good business for you.

The only uncertainty there is about my being here is on account of the lawsuit in which I am to appear as a witness. The Legal Department tells me that it is not very probable that I shall be called upon on Monday, but Mr. Meadowcroft has had a telephone conversation with Mr. Thompson this morning, during which it was arranged that he would call up Mr. Meadowcroft about 9:30 on Monday morning, at which time I think we can tell for certain. I sincerely hope that nothing will happen to prevent our having an early meeting, as I am quite anxious to take up the matter with you and your associates.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*TE*

*First*

Nov. 13th, 1914.

Mr. Wm. H. Paynter  
New York Manager of Demonstrators,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Riley handed me your letter to him of yesterday's date, in regard to the subject of carting by Mr. Chas. Klenke, who agreed to do all the trucking in the second, third and fourth districts of New York for \$30.00 per week.

As I telephoned you yesterday, Mr. Edison says all right to this, but under no circumstances does he wish to use any signs in connection with a truck that is doing the carting of our machines. You will please see therefore that no sign is used.

I return the letter to you, and you can hand it to Mr. Riley when you see him again.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Macbown*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

First

Nov. 12th, 1914.

Mr. Jacob H. Schiff,  
William and Pine Streets,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Schiff:

Replying to your favor of the 10th instant let me say that I have not seen the newspaper article you refer to, but I remember what I said and it was this: that the Germans took all the credit for the great advance of their nation in commercial prosperity, whereas, the fact is that the military group that rules Germany had brains enough to take the advice of the great Jewish bankers and business men, and gave the captains of industry a free hand, thus enabling them to build up the enormous industry of modern Germany. I instanced the Bleichroders, Ballin, Rathenau and Loewe, and said that if one went down to the bottom of things in the great and most successful industries, one would dig up a Jew who furnished the ability that made them a success.

Yours very truly,

Charles D. ...

*First*  
632

Nov. 16th, 1914.

Mr. L. K. Berry,  
551 Woodland Avenue, Netherwood,  
Plainfield, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 6th instant to our Company was handed to Mr. Edison particularly with reference to your question in regard to coating the records with a thin coating of pure Glycerine. He wishes us to say in reply to this question that oil or glycerine does no good to the records. On the contrary, it makes them gather dirt and dust which would add to any surface sounds. Mr. Edison requests us to say that he is constantly at work on these surface sounds, and he will never quit until he is rid of them altogether.

In regard to the selection you mention, would say that "The Little Gray Home in the West" has been recorded and will soon be put out. Mr. Edison will look into the other selections that you mention with a view of recording them if it has not already been done.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

2-51

Nov. 16th, 1914.

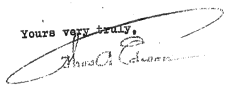
Blake & Burkart,  
Walnut & Eleventh Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 13th instant in regard to Mr. Riley, and am very glad indeed to learn that he has made such a good impression on you. During the few weeks that he has been at work with his men in New York City giving recitals, I feel sanguine that good results will result from his campaign in Philadelphia.

I am glad you feel this matter is worthy of your hearty support, and thank you for your prompt recognition of what I am trying to do.

Yours very truly,



*First*

Nov. 14th, 1914.

Mr. H. W. King, President,  
King Detective Service,  
Suite 545-9 McKnight Bldg.,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

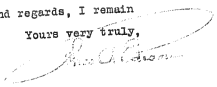
My dear Mr. King:

Your interesting favor of the 9th instant brings back to my mind a host of recollections of our boyhood days, now so far in the past. I have been through so many varied experiences during the last fifty years that the days of my boyhood seem to belong to a far distant period, although I am glad to say that my memory still holds good as to the many interesting episodes of my earlier years.

Let me thank you for your letter and also for all the good wishes that you express in my behalf. I am glad to hear from you, and also to learn that you have prospered in the world and that you are able to enjoy your life.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,



22-1

Nov. 16th, 1914.

Mr. William H. Schuel.  
189 Maiden Lane,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

A few weeks ago you sent me sample B

pound package of

Gum Acroroides

" Ester

" Indian

" Kadaya

Rubber Pitch

Will you kindly favor me with prices

on the above.

Yours very truly.

*First*

Nov. 16th, 1914.

Miss Louise B. Trow,  
In Charge Retail Record Department,  
The Phonograph Co.,  
229 So. Wabash Avenue,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Miss Trow:

Your favor of the 11th instant to Mr. Edison was received and handed to him. He has read it with much interest.

He wishes me to say to you that we have half a dozen of Anna Case's songs recorded, but naturally we cannot put them all out at once. We also have records from more than fifteen wellknown artists who have sung for us.

We are prevented from putting out what we would like to issue by the (miserable to Mr. Edison) dance records and war song stuff. He wishes to assure you that we have the goods if we can ever get a chance to put them out.

Yours very truly,

*H. J.*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



First

Nov. 16th, 1914.

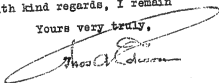
Mr. Wm. E. Wiley,  
John Wiley & Sons Co.,  
432 Fourth Avenue,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Wiley:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 12th instant and also of the complimentary copy of your latest electrical work, for which please accept my sincere thanks. The book is beautifully gotten up and seems to be very complete. You may rest assured it will find a place in my library.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely of Thomas Edison, written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

First

Nov. 17th, 1914.

Dr. John G. Ryerson,  
Boonton,  
N.J.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Meadowcroft has handed me a copy of your book, "A Mind Remedy", and has fully explained your wishes in regard thereto. Let me say in connection therewith that while the discovery you have made is seemingly of much interest and ought to be thoroughly investigated by the profession, I must ask you to kindly excuse me from taking any specific action in the matter.

In the first place, it would be unwise from a business standpoint to introduce any specialty of this nature in my factories. Under our general practice we send cases of sickness to a regular practitioner, thus avoiding any questions that might arise under employer's liability laws. In the next place, my time and attention are entirely concentrated day and night on the multitudinous problems arising from my extensive business interests and experimental work. Consequently, it is really impossible for me to devote any time whatever to affairs not relating thereto, no matter how important or interesting they may seem to be.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*Forest*

Nov. 19th, 1914.

Mrs. F. P. Chalmers,  
1155 Farwell Avenue,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mrs. Chalmers:

Mr. L. E. Myers has forwarded to me your letter to Mrs. Myers in regard to the subject of your coming to our New York Recording Studio to make a trial record of your voice. I am by that letter that you have read the communication which I sent to Mr. Myers, and are willing to take the risk of making the trip to New York for this purpose.

I have written to Mr. W. E. Miller, the manager of our Recording Studio at #79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, informing him of your intended visit, and have asked him to make a trial record of your voice in one of your songs and send it to Mr. Edison for his hearing. I have no doubt that any of the three dates that you mention in your letter will be entirely satisfactory to Mr. Miller, and I think you will find that he will give you every opportunity to show the quality of your voice. Unless you are a coloratura, I would suggest that you choose a song that has a distinct and attractive melody rather one whose chief merit is its brilliancy.

Allow me add my sincere wishes for your success.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

578

Nov. 20th, 1914.

Mr. L. K. Berry,  
551 Woodland Avenue,  
Netherwood,  
Plainfield, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

Replying further to your favor of the 6th instant, we beg to make the following report as to the record you inquire about.

Massenet's Elegy has already been recorded. Mighty Lik' a Rose will be recorded soon, and Little Grey Home in the West has already been recorded by two singers, but neither of the records were satisfactory to Mr. Edison and he did not pass them for manufacture. He hopes to get a satisfactory singer for this song very soon.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

First

Nov. 20th, 1914.

Mr. Samuel Insull,  
Edison Building,  
120 West Adams Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Insull:

I have received yours of the 17th instant, and would say in reply that I have not the slightest objection to your using my photograph with its inscription in the collection of your speeches that you propose to publish.

I wish you would let me know at your early convenience whether you control any gas companies that distil their tar and make Benzol. You have probably seen items in the newspapers to the effect that I am making my own Carbolic Acid, and I am using pure Benzol for this purpose. I am buying some from the United Gas Improvement people in Philadelphia.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. R. Lock*

First

Nov. 20th, 1914.

Mr. M. L. Lefferts, President,  
The Celluloid Company,  
30 Washington Place,  
New York City.

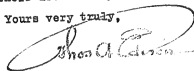
Dear Mr. Lefferts:

I received your favor of the 17th instant in regard to the Redmanol Chemical Products Company, and thank you for calling my attention to their use of the word "Amberoid". This word is very near the one that we use to designate a type of machine and records, but our word is "Amberol."

We have no connection whatever with the Redmanol Company. I think they make a sort of Condensite, and do not know how to work it.

I return their letter to you herewith, and remain

Yours very truly,



J. M. Lefferts

16

Nov. 21st, 1914.

Mr. Charles H. Botsford,  
Room 1636, 25 Broad Street,  
Newark, N. J.

My dear Mr. Botsford:

I shall have to ask you to kindly excuse the delay in replying to your favor of the 12th instant. I have simply been swamped in work since the receipt of your letter, and it has been a matter of impossibility for me to get at my correspondence for a week.

In regard to the manufacturing of chemicals, as suggested by Mr. Edison, I know that there are quite a number, but it would take me quite some time to obtain anything like a full list. I know there is a great shortage of dyeing materials, and I would also mention a few of the things for which there is an opening for a manufacturer. These are as follows:

Carbolic Acid  
Paraphenylenediamine  
Nitro-Benzol  
Picric Acid  
Aniline Oil  
Hydroquinone  
Metol

I think that you would find the above quite enough to make a start on. Indeed, you would probably have to make a selection, as you would scarcely be able to handle them all.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Miller*

First

Nov. 20th, 1914.

W. H. Guinther

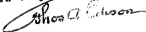
Mr. W. H. Guinther,  
 28 Disenoids,  
 Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your favor of the 7th instant, let me say that you will probably find in our Christmas supplements the selections that you desire, as mentioned in your letter. Let me also say for your information that we are making some more Saxophone & bell records. You will probably have noted that there are already in the catalog two or three Saxophone solos. As to the twelve inch records, we cannot put them out as yet. When the time comes for these, we shall put them out only with the symphonies of Beethoven and other musical compositions of similar length.

I have noted your remarks in regard to the winding device and will ascertain what the trouble is. Will you kindly write and let me know what type your machine is? Please give me full particulars and number of the machine, and I will arrange to have it fixed up.

Yours very truly,


 Wm. A. Edison



First

Nov. 20th, 1914.

Mr. Geo. J. Lenth,  
Elkader,  
Iowa.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 17th instant, which I have read very carefully. Perhaps you are right in your remark that we are dead ones, but if so, that gives us more latitude for improvement.

Now as to the various points covered by your letter, let me say that I will take up the matter of the castors immediately, and trust you will have no further reason for complaint in this direction. As to publicity, we are starting a big national advertising campaign, as well as a broad-cast recital campaign. We find this is much more immediate in its selling returns.

I have in New York City sixteen men doing nothing but arranging for and giving recitals day by day. They are doing some pretty lively work, for instance, yesterday afternoon and last night they gave, with the assistance of dealers, twenty ~~one~~ recitals to ~~me~~ many groups of people.

Experiments in several cities show as a result that as against \$1000 spent for advertising and \$1000 spent in giving recitals, that the latter plan was eight times more efficient, as shown by subsequent sales of the dealers.

Yours very truly,  


First

Nov. 20th, 1914.

Mr. W. E. Lapping,  
918 North 10th Street,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir:-

As the mere acquisition of money is not the principal ambition of my life, appreciative letters such as you have written me are a source of much gratification, for they indicate that I have succeeded after years of hard work in coming close to my ideal, which is, to afford a never ceasing fountain of pleasure to real lovers of music. I want to thank you for your letter with its expressions of appreciation and good will.

I have instructed the proper department in ~~my~~ Works to see that you are provided with the parts you desire to make your machine a worm-wind, ~~as~~ desired. As to the selection you would like namely, "When you and I were Young, Maggie", I ~~am~~ looking into that matter, and shall hope to put out a record of this selection as soon as our routine of recording will allow of it.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas Edison*

If you don't receive attention notify me

560

Nov. 21st, 1914.

Mr. W.H. Gartley,  
Engineer of Works,  
United Gas Improvement Co.,  
Broad & Arch Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Gartley:

The five gallon can of pure Benzol came duly to hand, and I have had it tested. The results of the test are very satisfactory and show that it is just what we want.

The Barrett benzol is nearly the same, except that it contains considerable Carbon Bisulphide.

Yours very truly,

*J. A. Eamon*  
J. A. Eamon

598

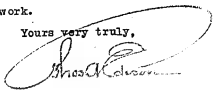
Nov. 21st, 1914.

Arthur H. Thomas Company,  
West Washington Square,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:-

I have received your favor of the 19th instant and note that you are going to offer a personal conference with Mr. Ford. If you have not already done this, let me suggest that you do not approach him yet. His Laboratory is not ready, and when it is he will probably want me to do most of the work.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. A. Scheraga", enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

359

November 23, 1914.

Mrs. Marion E. Geeser,

Postlagernd,

Neuenburg, Baden.

Germany.

Dear Mrs. Geeser:

Our bank, the Union National of Newark,  
New Jersey has to-day instructed the Dresdner Bank,  
Berlin, to place the equivalent of two hundred dollars  
to your credit with the Dresdner Bank-Filiale-Freiburg.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

  
Secretary.

First

Nov. 24th, 1914.

Mr. Nathan H. Alterman,  
590 Tinton Avenue,  
Bronx, New York.

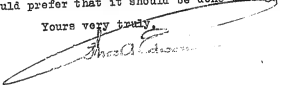
Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th inst., which has been read with a great deal of interest. In reply let me say that while I am very glad that you have called my attention to your Society, I shall not be able at the present time to be of substantial financial assistance, as the disturbance of business conditions due to the War in Europe will not allow of my diverting from my business interests any of the money that I require to keep them moving.

I think, however, that possibly it may happen that I may be able to be of more practical assistance to some of the members of your orchestra. I assume from your letter that most of your players are people who work in the day time and have their evenings to themselves, and as I am going to conduct some extensive experiments in recording music in the evenings here at West Orange, it may be possible that I can arrange to employ some of your musicians for evening work. I am giving this matter a great deal of consideration just now, and you may hear from me again before a great while.

In the meantime, if you have among your people any players of especial talent, I should be very glad if you could send me a memorandum of their names and the instruments they play. If I conclude to make arrangements with any of them, I presume that you would prefer that it should be done through you.

Yours very truly,

  
Max Baer

First

Nov. 24th, 1914.

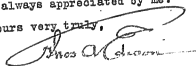
Mr. Henry A. Ashmead,  
16 Belmont Street,  
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 19th instant has been handed to me, and I want to assure you that its contents have been a source of great satisfaction to me. I am much gratified by your words of appreciation in regard to the list of British and Patriotic selections, and am glad to learn of your enthusiasm which has led you to the sale of our machine.

Let me say in conclusion that intelligent suggestions and ideas are always appreciated by me.

Yours very truly,



Mrs. A. Ashmead

First

Nov. 24th, 1914.

Mr. F. R. Johnson, Sales Manager,  
 East Kentucky Coal & Coke Company,  
 Central National Bank Bldg.,  
 St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir:-

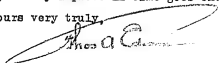
I received your favor of the 16th instant, and would say in reply that its contents have been perused with much interest. I am always glad to receive criticisms in regard to our records, and am glad to give them my personal attention. Let me say for your information that we receive a great variety of opinions about music, but they vary in a very astonishing manner. All sorts of suggestions and ideas come to us, but we find that they are not universally applicable. For instance, records that are salable in New England are unsalable in Iowa, and vice versa.

You say that the music sounds thin in spots. Let me call your attention to the fact that four violins played in exact time give the effect of one violin of large tone. If the players cannot play in exact step, you can then tell that there are four violins, but not otherwise. We have twenty four men in our band, and nearly every one of them comes from the Philharmonia, The Symphony Orchestra or the Metropolitan Opera House Orchestra. The closer they play, the fewer there appears to be playing. This from a musician's point of view is correct, but probably a mistake from a commercial point of view.

Our competitor's type of Orchestra might please you better. The dealers sell an attachment with which you can play Victor or Columbia records on your machine.

I am working hard to make our records as perfect as possible, and we shall probably improve as time goes on.

Yours very truly,





First

Nov. 24th, 1914.

Mr. C. F. Roberts,  
Wahl Adding Machine Co.,  
232 East Ohio Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th instant, and would say in reply that most of the things that are very attractive for manufacturing at the present time are in the chemical line. Many of the chemicals are paying enormous profits to the manufacturers, but this line of work requires experts, and real ones are very scarce.

Many propositions for manufacturing in the mechanical line have been offered to me, but I have turned them away because I am so filled up with my own work that I cannot take on anything else. Many of these have been taken up by other parties, so should I come across something promising I will let you know.

Yours very truly,



First

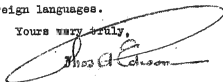
Nov. 24th, 1914.

The Savolainen Company,  
Virginia,  
Minn.

Gentlemen;-

Your favor of the 19th instant in regard to records in Foreign languages has been referred to me. The trouble is that at the present time we cannot get the proper singers to make these records, an account of the War; then again, we are so pressed by people in the large cities for dance music that we have been obliged to pay special attention to that lately. Just as fast as we can we will make up a list of records in Foreign languages.

Yours very truly,



J. H. Carlson

First

Nov. 24th, 1914.

Mrs. R. M. Willson,  
R.F.D. #2,  
Huron, Ohio.

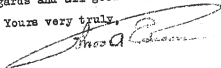
Dear Mrs. Willson:-

I ~~was~~ indeed surprised to receive a letter from you, but  
~~am~~ very glad to get it and to read about the friends of days long  
gone by. I remember the Klines very well, but I was only seven  
years old when I left Milan. A great many things have happened  
since that time, but my memory is still good ~~as~~ to lots of things  
that happened during those very early years. My father enjoyed  
a vigorous life until he died when he ~~was~~ ninety four years old.  
Harriett Ann and Pitt both died a long time ago.

You must be getting quite old now, and I don't wonder  
that you feel rather lonely with so many of the old faces missing.  
I have been so busy all my life that I have not time to get old.

With kind regards and all good wishes to you, I remain

Yours very truly,



**General Letterbook Series  
Letterbook, LB-101 (1914-1915)**

This letterbook covers the period Nov 1914-February 1915. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. In addition to letters concerning the commercial development of disc phonographs and recordings, much of the correspondence relates to World War I and its disruption of markets for carboric acid (or phenol), which Edison used in the manufacture of phonograph records. Numerous letters pertain to Edison's move into the manufacture of chemicals for his businesses, with the construction of his own benzol absorbing plants, and the sale of his excess supplies. Included are documents regarding his sale of toluol to the British government through J. P. Morgan & Co., along with correspondence about industrial waste from Edison's chemical works. The letters from 1915 contain numerous references to the fire of December 9, 1914, that destroyed or damaged more than half of the buildings in the West Orange laboratory complex. The correspondents include General Electric executive Charles A. Coffin; W. W. Richards of E. I. Du Pont de Nemeurs Powder Co.; the Cambria Steel Co. of Johnstown, Pennsylvania; and Harger & Blish, phonograph dealers in Des Moines, Iowa.

The front cover is marked "T. A. E. Nov. 25, 1914. To Feb. 13, 1915." The spine is marked with similar information, along with the number "39." The book contains 710 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 20 percent of the book has been selected.

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Trust

Nov. 25th, 1914.

Mr. George H. Follows,  
6428 Darlington Road,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 21st instant, which has been read with considerable interest. I want to thank you for your kind suggestions and to say that I am always open to fair criticisms and also to suggestions and ideas for the bettering of our products.

I am preparing to install and equip a special recording room, and I am sure that we are going to get ~~some~~ music that will be very much better than that produced by our previous efforts as soon as this special room is finished. We are very much handicapped in trying to get good voices. Those that sound all right on the stage when there is a large orchestra and the hum of the audience, enlivened by the dramatic environment, show up glaring defects when put on the phonograph.

Many singers "break" on some notes, thus causing a blurred, chattering sound. If the singer is a celebrated one, the phonograph gets the blame.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

First

Nov. 27th, 1914.

Mr. Charles S. Bradley,  
41 Park Row,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Bradley:

Your favor of the 24th instant, in regard to Mr. Guido Meisel, a German chemist was received by Mr. Edison, and has had his attention. He requests me to write and ask you whether Mr. Meisel has had factory experience in the manufacturing of commercial chemicals. If so, will you kindly inform me just how much experience he has had and in what particular line.

Trusting you are well, and with kind regards,

I remain

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Llewellyn*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Ward*  
*651*

Nov. 27th, 1914.

Prof. Charles Baskerville,  
College of the City of New York,  
139th Street & St. Nicholas Terrace,  
New York City.

My Dear Sir:

I have sent you by mail today a small sample of  
nickel flake which has been prepared with great care by our  
chemists over in the Storage Battery. A careful analysis of  
this shows .25% of copper. This is not undissolved copper  
in "leaves", but seems to be from copper in the anode itself.  
Mr. Edison says that I should tell you that this small percent-  
age of copper would probably disappear after a little use of the  
flake, and we are going ahead trying further experiments in the  
age and expectation that we will be able to practically eliminate  
the copper altogether. I hope to send you some other samples  
within a few days.

Will a sample of the size sent you today be suffi-  
cient for you to make a test?

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Meadowcroft*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



7

First

Nov. 27th, 1914.

Mr. B. H. Collins,  
Messrs. Steinway & Sons,  
107 & 109 E. 14th Street,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 23rd instant has been received, and I have talked with Mr. Edison in regard thereto. He wants me to say that he is not ready yet to consider the purchase of a new piano. He is experimenting on our old piano, and thinks he can make it far better for his purpose than a new one would be.

He wants me to say to you that he has a new \$1000 Steinway at his house, and it is fine.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. Linscott*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Trick*

Nov. 27th, 1914.

Prof. John Laetti,  
152 E. 108th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. Cronkite of our Recording Department has spoken to me about you. I told Mr. Cronkite that I desired to get an expert to help me in ~~sume~~ extensive experiments that I am going to perform in the recording and reproducing of music. I infer that you got an idea from Mr. Cronkite's conversation that I should desire the export immediately. This, however, is not the fact, ~~==~~ I shall not be ready to start these experiments for some little time, as I ~~am~~ building a special place to carry them on. When I am ready, I hope I ~~am~~ avail myself of your services.

Should you have spare time enough to come over to the Laboratory at Orange, I should be very glad to see you some day. You had better telephone to my assistant, Mr. Meadowcroft in advance of your coming, so ~~as~~ to make sure I shall be here.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. Edison*

*First*

Nov. 27th, 1914.

Mr. Percy P. Morgan,  
Formerly V.F.S.C.E.,  
Walden, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Morgan:-

At Mr. Edison's request, I beg to hand you enclosed a copy of the regular program that was in giving recitals under Mr. Riley's direction. This program is a winner. A combination of the regular numbers and the request numbers below is a good one, because it caters to everybody. The preparation of this program was largely Mr. Edison's work, and he divided it into two parts because if there are people in the audience who do not care particularly for the numbers in the regular order, that is to say, from one to twelve, there is a request list at the foot of the program, from which they can have selections played. As you will see on examination, there is all sorts of music on this sheet.

Another thing. Mr. Edison thinks that you cater to churches rather too much, and he is anxious to have recitals given to fraternities, and all kinds of associations, as well as churches.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Leland*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Trick*

Nov. 27th, 1914.

Mr. I. B. Perrine, Pres.,  
Twin Falls Railroad,  
Twin Falls, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Perrine:

I am returning herewith your favor of the 13th instant, with our various memoranda upon it. You will see at the top Mr. Edison's memorandum telling me to send the whole thing to you. The report of our chemist about the ore of which you sent him sample is written in pencil at the foot of your letter to me.

Mr. Edison is very glad indeed to learn that the storage battery cars are operating so well, and says that he will be very glad to see you on your next trip to New York.

In regard to killing the blight in pear trees, Mr. Edison's recollection is that he told you what they do in Germany, and that is to burn large electric lights in the orchards at night, with traps which catch the flying insects, and in this way they prevent the second generation to a large extent. This plan is being very largely used in Germany, and has been reported to be quite successful.

With kindest regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*H. F. Edison*

*Swift*

Nov. 27th, 1914.

Mr. Geo. B. Reid,  
% Vanity Manufacturing Co.,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 17th instant to Mr. Edison, together with the sample of your idea of an index for record cabinets came duly to hand. He once submitted this to the Engineer of the Works, who made the following report, Mr. Edison says try again.

The report is as follows:

"In connection with this record index, I find that this style of wooden separator in disc cabinet drawers is no longer used.

They have been discontinued because:

- 1- Scratched records
- 2- Occupy too much space
- 3- Wood warps making records fit tight.
- 4- Expense
- 5- Stain comes off on records and peoples' fingers.

There has been substituted a system of card separators with index number on each separator and a filing card.

The drawers are now divided into ten parts by means of wood separators.

Each part holds ten records with 10 indexed separators.

The new system shows the following advantages:

- 1- Each separator has an index number which is not liable to break off.
- 2- The drawers hold 15 more records
- 3- It is cheaper
- 4- No trouble from scratching or warping.
- 5- No tight fits
- 6- Large filing card - removable for changing and passing around if desired.
- 7- Has been found very satisfactory."

Yours very truly, Edison Laboratory

*W. H. P.*



Nov. 30th, 1914.

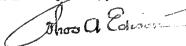
Mr. E. A. Brand,  
Acting Chief of Bureau,  
Department of Commerce,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 18th instant has been handed to me, and in reply I beg to say that we have started manufacturing chemicals which we were formerly compelled to import from Germany. We do not manufacture for sale, but only for our own use.

However, we are in possession of considerable information regarding German chemicals and the commercializing of the same, and I would be glad to see any representative of the Department of Commerce, should you wish to have anyone call on me.

Yours very truly,

  
J. A. Edwards

*First*

Nov. 30th, 1914.

Mr. Gordon Miller,  
Box 1856,  
Pittsburg, Pa.

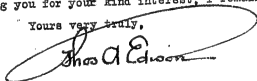
Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 26th instant has been handed to me, and I beg to assure you that your kind words of appreciation in regard to the Edison Diamond Disc Phonograph are very gratifying to me, as it indicates that my hard work of the last few years is accomplishing what I set out to do, that is to please lovers of good music.

In regard to the "Daisy" songs, I have given instructions to look these up and have them tried out, and if we can do so we will put one or more of them on the record.

Thanking you for your kind interest, I remain

Yours very truly,



Thomas A. Edison

*Trust*  
45

Nov. 30th, 1914.

Mr. Geo. C. Silzer, Vice President,  
Hargor & Blish,  
811 Walnut Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Silzer:

This is to confirm the telegram I sent you last  
night in regard to the Anna Case record #80120:

"Anna Case Eighty one twenty would want had.

Have fixed. Hope to ship you all you want

Saturday, December 5th."

Although your letter was dated the 25th, it did  
not reach me until yesterday afternoon, and within an hour the  
above telegram had been sent you. You will see we are doing  
some hustling from this end also.

Yours very truly,



44  
90

Nov. 30th, 1914.

Mr. Geo. C. Silzer, Vice President  
Hargor & Blish,  
811 Walnut Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Silzer:

It will interest you to know that that boy of mine, in his Edison Shop in Orange, sold eight phonographs last week, two of which were cylinder machines.

Outside and store recitals did the business. They have given as many as three recitals outside (to associations, schools, etc.) and one store recital in one day. He does no advertising.

I have sixteen men in New York City, doing nothing else but giving recitals before associations, fraternities, churches, public schools, etc. During the day they go around and arrange for recitals, and nights and afternoons give the recitals themselves. The average attendance is about one hundred and thirty-two per recital, thus reaching over two thousand people a day.

The New York dealers are full of prospects, and sales are swelling.

Yours very truly,

7

*Wrest*

Nov. 30th, 1914.

Santa Fe Watch Company,  
621 Kansas Avenue,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Gentlemen:-

Your favor of the 21st instant has been handed to me, and I have read it with a great deal of interest.

Has it ever occurred to you that records salable in one part of the Country are entirely unsalable in another part? We get a variety of requests from all over the Country. From New England we get violent protests against putting on ragtime and Coon Songs. Up there they want operas and orchestra selections, together with dance records for the factory people. The Broadway hits do not sell there.

In Dakota they want Band records. This is true also of Southern Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. All these demands are backed up by sarcastic letters, all of which are very discouraging, in fact so much so that if I had known that there were such a wide difference of opinion about music, I would never have had anything to do with it. Sometimes I wish I were out of it altogether. All I can say is that we will do the best we can to satisfy these conflicting requests.

Yours very truly,

*W. A. E. Eason*



Nov. 30th, 1914.

Mr. John E. Teeple,  
50 East 41st Street,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 27th instant has been received, and we beg to say in reply that Mr. Edison thought that he might be able to use Pine Oil in the synthetic production of Carboic Acid Crystals, but found that he could not make use of it for this purpose. For the present, at any rate, we are out of the market for Pine Oil.

Thanking you for your kind and prompt attention to the matter at the time we had our previous correspondence, we remain

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*First*  
*653*

Nov. 1st, 1914.

Mr. H. H. Blish,

% Harger & Blish,

Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Blish:

Your favor of the 20th ultimo to Mr. Walter Miller was forwarded by him to Mr. Edison, who wants me to inform you that Millicent has been recorded and is now on the way through. Mr. Edison has given instructions to have the sample rushed forward to him so that he can see whether the record is good enough to place on the list.

What Mr. Edison cannot understand is that he gets as many letters from so many dealers asking him for heavenly sake let up on Bands and as much dance music, while you say in your letter that your people are crazy for it.

Yours very truly,

*H. J. Edwards*  
 Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*P.S. He is attending*

*Thick*  
97

Dec. 1st, 1914.

Mr. W. W. Nichols,  
Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co.,  
30 Church, St.,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Referring to your favor of the 27th ultimo and the enclosures forwarded therewith, Mr. Edison requests me to write and ask you if you will kindly ask Mr. Blauvelt whether they distil all their By-product Tar, or would they sell any. What Mr. Edison wants is a continuous supply of Benzol, but he understands that the Somet Solvay people have tied themselves up to the Barrett Manufacturing Company. That Company is hogging it, and refuses to sell ~~me~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~any~~ <sup>any</sup>, although ~~he~~ <sup>it</sup> uses it only for ~~my~~ <sup>his</sup> own purposes in manufacturing Carbolic Acid synthetically, and sell none to the public. He would ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> not hurt their market.

Yours very truly,

*Edison* *84*  
*1*

First

Dec. 1st, 1914.

Mr. T. C. Martin,

% National Electric Light Assoc.,

29 West 39th Street,

New York.

My dear Mr. Martin:

Your favor of yesterday with clipping from the New York Times has been received. I had not seen it, and deeply regret to learn that this dreadful War has been the occasion of such a loss to you. I sympathize with you sincerely and deeply, and wish to add my tribute of honor to the memory of a dead hero. I remember him very well, and enjoyed the pleasure of meeting him greatly when he was here sometime ago.

Very sincerely yours,

*First*

Dec. 2nd, 1914.

Mr. Roger W. Babson,  
Wellesley Hills,  
Mass.

Dear Mr. Babson:

The enclosed clipping is from your  
Weekly Report of December 1st, 1914.

Are you quite sure of the correctness of  
this statement? If it is all burnt up in eighteen months,  
where do the riches ~~come~~ in? Roumania, Hungary and some  
others of those countries have been pastoral for a long  
time. Are they rich?

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

First  
91

Dec. 2nd, 1914.

Mr. John Wanamaker,  
Philadelphia,  
Pa.

My dear Mr. Wanamaker:

Your very kind invitation to dine with you and a few friends on Friday of next week has been received, and is greatly appreciated.

I would like to accept but the fact is, I shall be overworked until after January and cannot get away. Unless another war or a Continental earthquake intervenes, I will gladly come down after that date.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison



*First*

Dec. 3rd. 1914.

Mr. H. D. Beaver,  
Verona,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 27th ultimo to Mr. Edison has been received, and he requests us to say in reply that we have already started to do some advertising, but we find that recitals given in churches, and before associations, fraternities, etc. brings the instrument itself before the people, and this is very much better than advertising, in selling results.

In regard to the question of a circulating library of records, we beg to say that the reason it has not succeeded is that the children in the homes scratch up the records so much that those who have tried this project have been obliged to stop.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

49  
82

Dec. 3rd, 1914.

Mr. W. H. Gartley,  
Engineer of Works,  
United Gas Improvement Co.,  
Broad & Arch Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Gartley:

Mr. Edison wishes me to write and ask you whether you would be willing to trade 10,000 gallons of our 90% Benzol for C.P. Benzol, we paying 5 cents per gallon for the exchange. We are putting up a distilling apparatus for turning our 90% Benzol into C.P., but it is not quite ready, and this exchange of 10,000 gallons would help Mr. Edison out. He thinks that probably you may be inclined to do this, as there would not be any extra call on you for raw material.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Garrison*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.



Dec. 3rd, 1914.

United States Theatres Co.,  
617 Washington Street,  
Hoboken, N. J.


Gentlemen:-

Mr. Koch of our New York Office handed us a card stating that you wished to find out whether you could get two or three of our phonographs at dealers' discounts, as you were going to give them away.

Mr. Edison requests me to write and say to you that he is very sorry that we are unable to allow you a discount. We have a contract with all our dealers, which prevents me from allowing discounts to any but a regular dealer in the goods.

Possibly you might be able to make some arrangement with the local dealer in your city on the basis of advertising.

Yours very truly,

  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Frank*

Dec. 3rd, 1914.

Mr. J. H. Vail,  
Grand View Sanatorium,  
Wernersville, Berks Co., Pa.

My dear Mr. Vail:

All I can do is to ask your kind indulgence for my long delay in reply to your favor of the 13th ultimo. I have been so overwhelmed with work during the last few weeks that my mail has been terribly neglected, and your letter has suffered severely. I want to express my apology and to ask you to kindly overlook what seems to be neglect.

I enclose herewith your letter with Mr. Edman's pencil memorandum on it, and also my memorandum to Mr. McChesney, the Manager of the Motion Picture Department, and also his reply. You will be able to gather from these original papers the whole story.

I am sorry that it could not have been of a more encouraging nature, but I know this, that they would not let any friend of mine go into it if there were any risk.

It is with much regret I learn of your illness and the unfortunate experiences that you have had. It seems too bad after a life of hard work to have things turn out that way. I sincerely trust that before long some way will open up to you of recuperating from these reverses.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,

*First*  
*698*

Dec. 22, 1881.

Mr. C. A. Coffin,  
Thirty Church Street,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Coffin:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2nd instant, and in reply beg to say that I cannot remember Dr. Edwards, nor have I any recollection of any work by anyone of that name.

Yours very truly

*Thos. A. Edwards*

64

Dec. 4th, 1914.

Mr. W. H. Cartley,  
Engineer of Works,  
United Gas Improvement Co.,  
Broad and Arch Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Cartley:

Now I am appealing to you for some information. I want to store my benzol in two tanks, of say, 6,000 gallons each. Will you please advise me on the following points:

1. Should the tanks be vertical or horizontal?
2. What thickness of iron should they be?
3. May they be outdoors, or should they be inside the building?
4. Should they be above ground, or sunk in the ground?
5. What precautions are necessary?

You will see the line of information I am after. If I have not asked enough questions, will you out of your extended experience kindly post me on all necessary or essential points.

Thanking you in advance for your attention, I remain

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*Trink*

Dec. 26, 1911.

Mr. E. H. Cary,  
856 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Cary:

In accordance with my promise a few days ago, I have instructed my people to send to your residence one of my new Diamond Disc Phonographs and some records. I have also given instructions to send one of our men to your house to unpack the machine and to instruct your butler how to operate it.

I do not know your taste in music, and therefore sent you only a limited quantity of records for a start. You will find enclosed, herewith, a catalogue of our records, and shall be very glad if you will kindly look it over and choose as many as you would like. If you will send me a list of these I shall take pleasure in having them sent over to you.

Yours very truly,

*Shoedeen*

*Waver*

Dec. 2nd, 1914.

P. H. Pitkin, Jr.,  
Box 1631,  
Springfield, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 2nd instant, which has been read with a great deal of interest, and I want to thank you for the many good words which you are kind enough to say in regard to my new Diamond Disc phonograph.

Our production of records depends greatly upon the demands which our dealers make upon us. I must confess that these demands have proved to be very disappointing to me, and show a fairly low grade of musical taste on the part of the public. It is only the real music lovers who like chamber music, and until we have sold many more machines, the demand for it will not be great enough to go into it largely.

However, I am building a special recording room, which is now about half finished, and in it I shall record all the high grade music, such as symphonies, sonatas, etc., with strings, and also large orchestras.

I shall do this even if sales of records are comparatively few, as I am very fond of this class of music myself. To record it well, however is a very difficult matter, and there will be a great deal of experimenting done before I issue any commercial records.

Yours very truly

*Thomas Edison*



45  
99

Dec. 4th, 1914

Mr. Geo. C. Silzer, Vice President,  
Hargor & Blish,  
611 Walnut Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Silzer:

Referring to your favor of the 22nd ultimo, let me advise you not to get discouraged about the cylinder line, but keep pushing it hard until I get things in shape. You will note that the latest records have grown much better in quality, and they are going to be improved still further. The machines also are going to be improved.

Several selling plans are being tried out, and in spots some dealers are doing a fine business and have been doing so right along. They have different plans, however, which we are investigating.

I am sure that with greatly improved records and machines selling from \$50 to \$60, and the Dice machines at \$80, \$100, \$150, \$200, \$250, etc., with good cabinets, and a little prosperity for the workingman, which we have not had since 1907, and an exchange system for old type machines, we shall get the business back to a great extent. So keep at it until I get things right.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*9/10m*

50  
107

Dec. 4th, 1914.

Mr. W. W. Nichols,  
% Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co.,  
30 Church Street,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

In view of the fact that Mr. Blauvelt is to come out and see Mr. Edison next Wednesday, I think I had better return to you the correspondence that you sent for his perusal, and therefore return herewith Mr. Blauvelt's letters together with copy of your letter to him and the newspaper clipping.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. McAdams*

*P. S. I have received your favor of yesterday containing letter of Mr. Edison, and have laid it before Mr. Edison.*

Dec. 4th, 1914

Mr. Edmund V. Parr,  
115 Liberty Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Please excuse the delay in replying to your favor of the 12th ultimo. I have been exceedingly busy the last few weeks. Let me say that I am always open to consider letters of intelligent criticism and suggestions, in fact, I am very glad to get them. I have aimed at keeping up a high standard on my new Disc phonograph, and shall try to maintain it.

Let me say in reply to your remarks that some of the records do blast. Some of these blasts are due to the reproducer, but many of them to the singer. We had so much trouble with one of our singers that we had to stop making her records. One of her notes blasted on every record, and it was always the same note. For a long time we thought it was the fault of the phonograph, but by carefully tracing it down we found it was in the singer.

Now in regard to the stop, let me say that unfortunately, when we started making records, we had no stop. When we got a stop a little later these records gave us trouble, but you will find that later records will be all right.

Yours very truly,



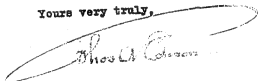
Dec. 4th, 1914.

Baroness Cederstrom,  
Craig-y-Nos Castle,  
Penycae, S. O.,  
Breconshire, England.

Dear Madam:-

Through the courtesy of Prof. Luigi Romano,  
I have received your photograph, which you have kindly  
autographed for me, and I desire to express to you my appre-  
ciation of your courtesy. The photograph has been framed  
and is now hanging in my music room at the Laboratory.

Yours very truly,



97

December 7, 1914.

Mr. W. W. Nichols,  
Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co.,  
#50 Church St.,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Nichols:

I am returning to you the letter written to you by Mr. H. J. Freyn of the E. Koppers Company, which Mr. Edison has read with a great deal of interest.

I am also enclosing a letter from Mr. Geo. F. McKay, of the Otto Coking Company. We had a talk with him one day last week about Benzole, and he said that Mr. S. H. Bingham of the American Tar Products Company was coming on to New York in a few days. We invited him to come over to the Laboratory and talk with Mr. Edison about the Benzole situation. This morning I have received the enclosed letter from Mr. McKay, which Mr. Edison has seen. He suggests that I send it to you, and ask you to read it in the light of the letter from Mr. Freyn. The two letters do not quite "jibe".

Mr. Edison has written to Mr. Kuehn to ask him not to contract up too tight, but to let him (Mr. Edison) have a chance to buy some Benzole.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Edwards*  
Asst. to Mr. Edison



Dec. 4th, 1914.

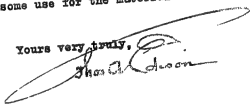
Mr. Geo. H. Stevens,  
77 Orange Avenue,  
Irvington, N. J.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2nd instant, and also of a copy of your index of the compilation which you have made of all the public data of the world on China Wood Oil. Please accept my thanks for this.

I have experimented to a considerable extent with this oil for different uses, but so far have not found anything into which it fits. I intend to continue my experiments, and will probably find some use for the material later, and then I shall want your book.

Yours very truly,



*Third*

Dec. 8th, 1914.

Bethlehem Steel Company,  
South Bethlehem,  
Pa.

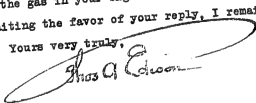
Gentlemen:-

I am manufacturing Carbolic Acid synthetically for my own use in making phonographic records. In the process I use Benzol, and am in need of a constant supply. As this is obtainable from the tar or from the gas of by-product ovens, I should be obliged if you will favor me with replies to the following questions:

1. Do you save the tar made from your by-product ovens?
2. If so, do you sell it?
3. How many ovens are you working?
4. Do you use the gas in your engines or only for fuel?

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain

Yours very truly,



Thos A. Edison



Dec. 8th, 1914.

Cambria Steel Company,  
Johnstown,  
Pa.

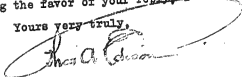
Gentlemen:-

I am manufacturing Carboric Acid synthetically for my own use in making phonograph records. In the process I use Benzol, and am in need of a constant supply. As this is obtainable from the tar or from the gas of by-product ovens, I should be obliged if you will favor me with replies to the following questions:

1. Do you save the tar made from your by-product ovens?
2. If so, do you sell it?
3. How many ovens are you working?
4. Do you use the gas in your engines or only for fuel?

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain

Yours very truly,







Dec. 8th, 1914.

Dominion Iron & Steel Company,  
Sydney, Cape Breton,  
Canada.

Gentlemen:-

I am manufacturing Carbolis Acid synthetically for my own use in making phonograph records. In the process I use Benzol, and am in need of a constant supply. As this is obtainable from the tar or from the gas of by-product ovens, I should be obliged if you will favor me with replies to the following questions:

1. Do you save the tar made from your by-product ovens?
2. If so, do you sell it?
3. How many ovens are you working?
4. Do you use the gas in your engines or only for fuel?

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain

Yours very truly,



Thomas A. Edison

*Trick*

Dec. 8th, 1914.

C. B. Haynes & Company,  
121 W. Broad Street,  
Richmond, Va.

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of your favor of the 5th inst., which has been handed to Mr. Edison. We return the letter of Mr. A. B. Chandler herewith. You can write to this gentleman and tell him that we already have recorded "Old Kentucky Home", and we expect to record "Home Again from a Foreign Shore". Mr. Edison will get the music of "Laurens", and if he finds it suitable will probably record it. Juanita is being recorded, and if the record passes Mr. Edison's judgment it will be put out on our list.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. ...*



Dec. 7th, 1914.

Mr. A. L. Kuehn,  
General Superintendent,  
American Tar Products Co.,  
200 South LaSalle St.,  
Chicago, Illinois

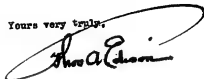
Dear Sir:-

I am in need of a constant supply of Benzol.

I am using near 500 gallons daily, and use it for making  
Synthetic Carbolic Acid. This is made for my use only.  
in the manufacture of phonograph records.

I hope you will please not contract up too  
tight with other parties. Kindly let me have a chance to buy  
some.

Yours very truly,



*Trist*

Dec. 8th, 1914.

Miss Mary Agnes Mullory,  
331 S. Fourth Avenue,  
Hankakee, Ill.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 23rd ultimo has been referred to us, as we have been engaging a number of demonstrators for the Edison Disc Phonograph. We would say for your information, however, that we only use male demonstrators. We have one female demonstrator, but do not expect to add any more to our staff for this purpose.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*Trist*



Dec. 8th, 1914.

Mr. G. W. Winters,  
Wichita,  
Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

Your recent favor and sketches in regard to speaking tube for the Dictating Machine were received in due course. We have submitted the same to our experts, who make the following report:

"We have always thought the use of a pneumatic bulb around the speaking tube makes a bunglesome arrangement and long ago decided in favor of our off-set handle, which has universally proven popular.

Mr. Winters probably does not realize that any attempt to entirely confine the voice within the speaking tube makes an impossible recording arrangement owing to the muffled sound of the voice under such conditions.

Evidently what the gentleman would like would be facilities to permit him to sit in a Lecture Hall or Convention and make a record on a dictating machine instead of using shorthand. This, of course, would not be practical even though it were possible to entirely confine the voice of the operator account of the impossibility of following a speaker in this manner. Mr. Winters will probably be interested to know that if he will only be patient, he will see developments along this line, from Edison, which will surpass his wildest dream."

We return your sketches by this mail.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

118  
132

Dec. 8th, 1914.

Messrs. Harger & Blish,  
611 Walnut Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Gentlemen:-

I have received your letter enclosing the complaint of your largest dealers about catalogs and the difficulty of finding a record therein. Let me say for your information that we are getting out a special catalog for dealers, with all kinds of cross indexes, to help them find selections quickly. The reason I changed the catalog was that I gave orders to save every cent we could in printing, and where printing was unnecessary, as I wanted to save the money to be used in improving the quality of the records.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. Blish*

PS We are sending out large amounts of printed matter to local cylinder dealers & I am going to ask jobbers to help, as you all recommended to do.

*Wm. A. Blish*

132

131

*[Handwritten signature]*

Dec. 8th, 1914.

Harger & Blish,  
811 Walnut Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Gentlemen:

Among the advertisements that you sent me I find a report made by one of your traveling men, Mr. C. A. Briggs. This report is returned to you herewith. What I am going to write you now is confidential.

In a sense, Mrs. Smeltzer is right. The interpretation of the Victor is dramatic. Our interpretation is lyric, but we shall be in a position soon to produce dramatic interpretation. You must remember however that it is only good in Operatic music.

Opera talent have never made a success in Concert work, except in a few cases. Their voices are trained abnormally to overcome the great barns they sing in, together with the hum of the people and the large orchestra. When they sing in Concert, the results are ridiculous. Their voices show glaring defects, and as a majority have received their reputation by reason of pleasing personality and fine acting, the public is led to believe by the Victor bunk that it is their voices which gives them the reputation, and the public can hear them on their machines. Last Winter all the critics of the New York papers were pounding Toccantini, the Leader of the Orchestra for playing so loud that it drowned the singers, whereas the fact was that he was trying to save the reputation of the singers by covering up their defects by the music of the Orchestra.

If you listen to Victor quartettes and other concerted pieces sung by their high grade talent, you will see at the point where all sing together that it is only noise and has no musical quality.

To put it briefly, Grand Opera can never be recorded successfully on a phonograph by using Dramatic singers who sing in large Opera houses, for the reason that their voices are especially trained to meet the adverse conditions. But you will get Grand Opera on the Edison records, sung dramatically with beautiful voices, and the results will confirm what I say, and it will not be long before this happens.

*PS. Victor is phoning in my hours very truly,  
with records of all the latest hits which have had the most successful results.*



Dec. 8th, 1914.

Mrs. Rosa M. Willson,

Huron,

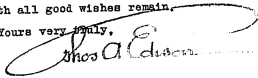
Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Willson:

I am very glad to get your letter of November 28th, and am pleased to know that you received my previous letter and the news you send brings back years that seem to be a long way off.

I am very glad to learn that you are in comfortable circumstances, and not likely to be in want in your old age. I trust that your remaining years may be spent in health and comfort, and with all good wishes remain,

Yours very truly,







Dec. 9th, 1914.

Mr. David Gibson, Publisher,  
THE GROUND HOG,  
601 Carlton Building,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Gibson:

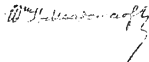
I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 3rd instant, and also of the copies of The Ground Hog, which you were kind enough to send me. It is certainly a very interesting publication, and I trust it will do well.

I have shown it to Mr. Edison, but could not get him to express any opinion. These days he is very backward to express an opinion on this sort of thing, for if it gets out before the public, we are simply inundated with a lot of letters, all of which he wants to avoid.

Trusting you are well, and with kind regards,

I remain

Yours very truly,





Dec. 9th, 1914.

Mr. J. B. Taltavall,  
The Telegraph and Telephone Age,  
253 Broadway,  
New York.

Dear Mr. Taltavall:

I beg you to excuse me for being so long in replying to your favor of the 1st instant. I could not reply to it until after the reports of our Recording Department had been looked up in regard to the trial record made by Miss Lucille Collette. It is with much regret that I am obliged to inform you that Miss Collette's record was not passed upon favorably by the committee or by Mr. Edison.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours very truly,



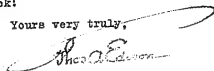
Dec. 9th, 1914.

The Editor,  
THE DAYTON JOURNAL,  
Dayton, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

I have no doubt that the newspapers of Dayton are receiving from all over the country felicitations upon the great results that have been achieved in rehabilitating your City and making it a more beautiful city than ever to live in. Let me add a word of good cheer and congratulation to your citizens for the fortitude which they have displayed and the courage with which they have taken up a vast work and accomplished such wonders in so short a time. Hurrah for American pluck!

Yours very truly,

  
Phoebe



Dec. 8th, 1914.

Mr. Jesup W. Scott,  
2925 Pasadena Avenue,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Sir:-

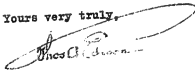
I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 28th ultimo, which was read with a great deal of interest, and its contents brings back to my mind the days of the old Toledo office, which I remember very well and also the Michigan and Southern office and the Western Union up town.

In regard to your question as to making an engine work by explosives, I tried that many years ago for James Gordon Bennett, using gun cotton for ~~an~~ explosive, - but one day the explosion took place when it was not intended and I saw the great danger of following up this attempt, so I gave it up. I scarcely think that it is a safe proposition.

I ~~am~~ sorry that my new Diamond Disc phonograph was not ~~on~~ the market when you bought your Victor. However, you may some day be able to arrange an exchange with your dealer.

I am sending ~~you~~ of my photographs autographed by this mail.

Yours very truly,



*Mark*  
*683*

Dec. 9th, 1914.

Mr. F. A. Whiting,  
Box 231,  
Agunquit, Maine.

Dear Sir:-

It is rather late to acknowledge receipt of a letter received in July, but the fact is that your favor was mislaid and has only just turned up by accident. Please accept our apologies.

You are right about the balancing of the volume of chorus singers. I am constantly having trouble in that direction. Sometimes the tenor predominates, and then again the soprano, or some instrument will blast out with twice the volume it should give. I am now starting a lot of special experiments to eliminate these troubles.

Let me thank you for your very kind words in regard to the new Disc machine and records. After working hard for some years it is certainly gratifying to learn that I have accomplished what I have set out to do, to please lovers of real music.

Yours very truly,  
*Franklin*

*True*  
630  
December 14 1914

Mr. F. K. Delbeer,

Victor Talking Machine Co.,

Credit Dept., Camden . N. J.

My dear Mr. Delbeer:-

Your letter of the 10th instant received. Altho Mr. Edison is overwhelmed with letters of every description and every minute of his time is taken up relative to the reconstruction of the plant I quote you his reply:-

"Tell Delbeer the old man is a live wire.  
is now sizzling and will get back in the game  
very soon".

From all appearances it looks as  
tho we will right ourselves in a very short while.  
With kindest regards, believe me to be,

Yours very truly.

*J. C. Kilgus*  
Secretary.



December 22, 1914.

Bond & Mortgage Guarantee Co.,

Mr. W. B. Clarke, Secretary.

176 Broadway, New York.

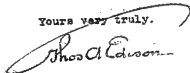
Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 19th instant.

I would say that I propose reducing the mortgage on No. 10 Fifth Avenue, New York City, Fifteen thousand dollars January 11th 1915, and Ten thousand dollars January 11th 1916, on condition that it be renewed for three years at 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  % interest per year.

Please have the necessary papers prepared in the name of my wife Mina M. Edison, as formerly, and oblige.

Yours very truly.



*Veret*

Jan. 6, 1915.

Mr. D. M. Bliss,  
Room 502,  
120 Liberty Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Bliss:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th instant in regard to Miss Cluck, and have consulted with Mr. Edison in regard thereto. He says if she wishes to make a trial record, she may go to our Recording Rooms at 379 Fifth Avenue and Mr. Miller will take a trial record and send it over to Mr. Edison for him to hear. Mr. Edison would prefer to have her make a record of Seibert's Ave Maria.

This letter will be sufficient authority for Mr. Miller to make the record.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*J*



Jan. 6, 1915.

Mr. W. C. Chapman,  
Grovetown, Ga.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 30th ultimo was received, and the phonograph that you forwarded has also come to hand. I enclose check for \$20.00 in payment of same, as agreed. Had our correspondence been before the disastrous fire at my plant, I might have been able to stretch the check a little.

Please accept my thanks for the holly and Georgia cotton bolls which you kindly enclosed in the box.

Yours very truly,

*John O. Chapman*

*Woot*

Jan. 6, 1915.

Mr. Mark Hyman,  
Special Assistant to the Attorney General,  
25 Broad Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th instant, and beg to say in reply that I shall be very glad to see you here at the laboratory some day next week. I would suggest an earlier day if it were possible, but just now I am extremely busy on the work of rehabilitating my large plant after the recent fire, and some day next week will be more convenient for me to have a talk with you.

I will have my Secretary write to you in the early part of next week suggesting an appointment.

Yours very truly,

*Frank B. Rowland*

1226

Jan. 6, 1915.

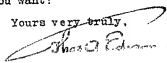
L. Rubbelli's Son,  
Drexel's Building,  
S. E. cor. 5th and Chestnut Sts.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th instant in regard to toluol. In reply let me say that there is a party now erecting a plant for absorbing benzol and toluol from coke oven gases. This party can close arrangements for 90,000 gallons per year, and I think has capacity for considerably more.

How much do you want?

Yours very truly,

Charles E. Drexel

Jan. 7, 1915.

Mr. Joseph F. Hansen, Mgr.,  
Hansen Furniture and Music Co.,  
Brigham City, Utah.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 19th ultimo to Mr. Wilson has been handed to me for attention. I regret that there has been so much delay in giving attention to this matter, but the fact is that Mr. Edison only heard the song "Mother Dear" a little while before the fire, and we have been so rushed since that event that our mail has been very much congested.

As I told you when you were here, Mr. Edison passes upon all music before he allows it to be recorded for phonograph. He said in regard to this song that it was very similar to a large number of other songs of the same character, and while he might pass it sometime in the future for records, there were hundreds of other selections that would have to receive attention first.

Mr. Edison is the sole arbiter of all music that is recorded, so we shall have to abide by his decision. I cannot give you any indication as to when he will finally decide whether or not it is to be recorded.

Yours very truly,

A. Assistant to Mr. Edison.

221

*Handwritten signature*

Jan. 7, 1916.

Mr. Edward M. Mallvain, Pres.,  
Lehigh Coke Company,  
So. Bethlehem, Pa.

Dear Mr. Mallvain:

In accordance with your request, I am sending you the following as a confirmation of the message which I got Mr. Henderson to telephone you today:

It would be useless for me to <sup>go</sup> up, as I have most of my plant assigned, and know where I can place my hand on the material and shops to make the parts. I think I can get it in operation in 45 working days. As I must have benzol, I cannot wait the slow action of regular engineers and Boards of Directors. I must place the plant somewhere. Mr. Cary offers me a place at one of his plants, but it is not ~~as~~ desirable a location as yours. I have been held up by two other concerns already for two months by interminable meetings of Boards of Directors. My proposition is a plain business one, and the gamble is all on my side.

Broadly speaking, my proposition is to put up a plant to refine the crude oil and ship pure benzol and toluol, and pay you 18 cents a gallon for all that is shipped. As to the Xylol and solvent naphtha, I will pay 10 cents a gallon, reserving the right to put it back into the gas if I cannot sell it. The plant is to have a capacity of absorbing 1,000 gallons crude daily on a three year contract, if you want to absorb more or all from your gas you pay for additions, which would be easily made, and we would operate on joint account as long as my benzol and toluol do not cost any more than the price named. At the end of three years I am to have the right to remove the plant, or you may buy it at two-thirds of its original cost, and I am to have first call on the product from 1,000 gallons of crude for three more years at the best market price you can get from responsible parties. If you feel I am not offering the highest price, come to Orange and I will convince you to the contrary.

I can only hold this proposition open for a few days, as every day counts.

Yours very truly,

*Handwritten signature*  
Orange

*Wick*

Jan. 7, 1915.

Mr. S. M. Graham,  
Graham Music Store,  
Columbus, Miss.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the second instant, and in reply would say that Port Myers is a very small town, and I don't think it would support a dealer in phonographs. The climate is fine, except for two or three hot months of the year, and then it isn't bad. It might pay you to go to Tampa, as it is a large city and there is more business, and the climate is almost like that of Port Myers.

Yours very truly,

*Wick*

Jan. 7, 1915.

Mr. P. S. L. Lambert,  
88 Earl Avenue,  
Lyndbrook, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the fourth instant let me say that I have already had five Rigoletto records sung by various singers, but so far none of the records suited me. I hope to get a good one soon. I will look into the matter of the Trio from the Prison Scene in Faust.

Yours very truly,

*Handwritten:*  
 317

Jan. 9, 1915.

Mr. W. W. Richards,  
 Development Department,  
 E. I. du Pont de Nemours Powder Co.,  
 Wilmington, Del.

Dear Mr. Richards:

I am in receipt of your favor of yesterday,  
 and would reply as follows:

Regarding the boiling point, do I understand  
 that between 80° and 82° C., will give me all the benzol there is  
 in the 90%? What I want is such a boiling point as will give me  
 all the benzol with the smallest quantity of toluol.

Regarding United State Steel, I have the assu-  
 rance of Mr. Gary that whatever contracts they make I will get  
 what benzol I need. But large corporations (and some small ones)  
 move slowly, and I am not going to take any chances.

Yours very truly,

*Handwritten signature:*  
 H. C. C.



Jan. 8, 1915.

Mr. Prof. Babson,  
Maison Shop,  
473 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Babson:

This is the way I am constantly irritated by people who, from a few instances in a special locality, throw out generalities, and then start in to draw conclusions based on no information whatever.

In the first place, this sentiment of Artist does not exist. They care for nothing but money, and are perfectly indifferent whether their records sound good or not. Even if they sing out of pitch they refuse to sing the selection over, and don't care if you put it out or not. Second, we have tried and turned down nearly every Grand Opera Artists, except six or seven that the Victor had tied up.

We have records of Metropolitan Opera House Artists as follows: Ober, Cadaki, Marsh, Jahn, Iltis, Senbrich, Florida, Schlegel, Porina, Phaman and Duchene, but we have never put them out because possibly they are better actors than singers. We have put out the following: Martin, Rappold, Delma, Case, Destinn, Bori, Ullis, Martinelli, Menes, Bonoi, Cisneros, and Slezak.

This leaves for the Victor: Caruso, Homer, Xmas (retired, voice gone), Tetracchini, Hempel, Amato, Aida, Intrepreneur, Schuman-Meinck (voice gone), Black and McGorrick. The real fact is that it all ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> been down to Caruso as the whole of the Victor advertising. In addition, we have tried nearly every one in the Century Opera.

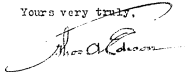
These Grand Opera voices are not adapted for Concert work. Not a single concerted piece on the Victor by Opera Artists can be found that is not full of beats and interferences. The phonograph is a Lyric instrument, not a dramatic one, because dramatic singing is only good when the eye as well as the ear work together. No doubt there are lots of people, as we know by our record reports, that ask why we do not have the great artists, but there are not many. The sales sheets of a Victor dealer refute the statement that Grand Opera stuff are good

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392  
Page two-

sellers; in fact, they are poor fellows. The artist business in the whole of the Victor advertising, and the Victor owners it falls flat. They know the records are rotten, and they buy the good tunes and popular stuff. I do not want to go on the same lines as the Victor. I want to diverge and get the best voices, Grand Opera or not, and to arrange and record the best tunes and best music. We have not a great number because I had other things more important, but we are getting them.

I think my source of information as to what the whole United States wants is better than that of anyone in a City like New York, which is abnormal. Look at Victor advertising lately in New York. Is it any wonder the uninformed New Yorker should ask for great singers, not knowing their reputation is due to acting and singing. Such people are not music lovers and are never steady buyers of records.

Yours very truly,

Max Baer

Jan. 2, 1915.

Mr. William T. Mayer, Treas.,  
Albany Chemical Company,  
2-24 Broadway,  
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Mayer:

Allow me to extend my sincere thanks for your very clear, explanatory favor of the 8th instant, in regard to the matter of handling empty bensol drums. I quite understand why the English riveted drum would not be satisfactory for your purpose.

Another way out of the difficulty has, however, occurred to me. You ship acetone to England in welded drums. Could you not arrange with your English consignee to furnish your drums to the party who is to ship my bensol? Then, when I receive the bensol in these drums, I could have them washed out very thoroughly after being emptied, and return your drums to you for your use again, paying the freight to a point to be named by you.

It strikes me that this scheme is workable to our mutual advantage as well as to the advantage of your English customer. How does it strike you?

Yours very truly,

*Shaw*

694  
Jan. 11, 1915.

Mr. Chas. O. Speira,  
D. Van Nostrand Company,  
Twenty-five Park Place,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Speira:

I am not sure whether or not I answered the last paragraph of your favor of the 30th ultimo, asking whether you should send further volumes of the "Encyclopedia of Chemistry", of which you sent us volume one last month. My answer to this question is "Yes". we want you to send us the succeeding volumes as they come out -

Yours very truly,

*John D. Edison*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Wager*

Jan. 11, 1915.

Mr. R. H. Wager,  
Room 401,  
100 William Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 7th instant,  
in regard to use of storage batteries on one car of each  
subway train. Your idea is a practical one, as every 8th  
car could be geared low and provided with a storage battery.  
Such a car could shove eight other cars out of danger, pos-  
sibly more.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Wager*

Jan. 11, 1915.

Dr. Edward Cranch,  
813 Sagafiras St.,  
Erie, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I have been greatly interested in reading your kind favor of the 6th instant and write to thank you for all the good words which you have been pleased to send me in regard to my Diamond Disc Phonograph. After working very hard for so many years in striving to bring my ideals to perfection, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to receive unsolicited letters of commendation from those whom I've tried to please, namely, real lovers of good music.

I am still doing a great deal of experimenting, and after I've gone a little further you will get some very fine music. I would say in regard to your remarks about hearing the words as well as the music, that we have a great deal of trouble in getting singers to articulate clearly, but we are constantly trying to get them to improve along this line. It has been suggested that we print the words on the envelope containing the record, and we may possibly adopt this suggestion after we get straightened out from the recent fire.

Please accept my thanks for your expression of sympathy in regard to the recent fire. We are working a large force of men day and night to get back on our feet again, and we shall once more be in full swing in a very little while. We are already producing about 8000 of the cylindrical blue amberol records per day at this time.

Yours very truly,



Jan. 11, 1915.

Mr. James Howard Kehler,  
5 Mitchell Kennerley,  
32 West 58th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Kehler:

I beg to extend my thanks to you for the complimentary copy of your book "An Open Letter to the Nation with regard to a Peace Plan". I have read it and think the idea is fine as well as practical.

Yours very truly.

Jan. 11, 1915.

Mr. Charles A. King,  
428 Broadway,  
Somerville, Mass.

Dear Mr. King:

Your favor of the fourth instant was handed to me, and I have read it, and also your program with a great deal of interest. It affords me a great deal of real pleasure to hear from a discriminating and enthusiastic lover of music, like yourself, as it has been my aim to reach a high standard in the recording and reproducing of high class selections. I therefore feel it is somewhat of a reward to have the results of my many years of hard work so thoroughly appreciated by you and others who have real love for real music.

I regret very much that it is not possible at this time to get you a copy of the disc record "Home, Sweet Home". All that were not sold were destroyed in the fire, and there is not a copy to be had, but if you will write me again in about two weeks, I think I shall have our presses in operation, and then I will have a copy printed for you.

I am complying with your request by sending you an autographed photograph herewith.

Yours very truly,



Jan. 11, 1915.

Miss Jeanette Marks,  
President's House,  
South Hadley, Mass.

Dear Miss Marks:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 6th instant, enclosing a scenario for a motion picture, entitled "A Welsh Cuckoo". If I were in the habit of looking over these scenarios myself, I should be very glad to do it in this particular case. The fact is, however, that all this work is done at our moving picture Studio in the Bronx, and I have sent your letter and scenario to the Manager, Mr. H. G. Plimpton, with the request that he will look over the scenario and communicate with you directly. I trust, for your sake, that you may receive a favorable answer.

I note that you have sent me a copy of your father's last book "Practical Rate Making". I shall be very glad to look over this when it is received.

Yours very truly,

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Jan. 11, 1915.

Mr. H. G. Plimpton, Mgr.,  
Negative Department,  
2826 Decatur Avenue,  
Bronx, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Plimpton:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from  
the daughter of one of my old electric light associates,  
William D. Marks, and I've written to her that the matter  
has been referred to you and that you will communicate  
directly with her.

Yours very truly,

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319

Jan. 12, 1916.

Mr. W. W. Richards,  
Development Department,  
E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Powder Co.,  
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Mr. Richards:

I am in receipt of your favor of yesterday's date. In reply let me say I am negotiating with the Lehigh Coke Company to put up my plant, but there are two things in the way.

(1). The gas from their present plant is so poor that they dare not take any oil out of it.

(2). It is owned in Germany, and they can do nothing without the consent of the Board of Directors in Germany, and you know what that means. Their new ovens will be running in three weeks, they told me, and then I may do something.

In any event, if any of these people decide to put plants in themselves, it will throw more benzol and toluol on the market. The only trouble is it will take them a year. The Luskawanna is going to have the Germans build their plant. That means one year, whereas, forty-five working days is all I want.

Yours very truly

*W. W. Richards*

7/10/14  
3/1/14

Dec. 13, 1915.

Mr. W. H. Blauvelt,  
Smet-Solvay Co.,  
Syracuse, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Blauvelt:

I take the liberty of coming to you for some information, and trust you will kindly favor me with answers to the following questions:

First. When I am ready to use absorbing oil, what shall I ask the Standard Oil Company to furnish?

Second. Can you give me the boiling points of the different fractions of the absorbing oil?

Yours very truly,

Wm. A. Blauvelt

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*Check*

Jan. 13, 1915.

Mr. D. T. Richardson,  
Atlas Export & Trading Co.,  
29 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 12th instant.  
Mr. Stecher must have misunderstood me at our interview. I  
did not say anything about Naphthaline, but stated that I  
would have Xylol and Solvent Naphtha (coal tar Naphtha). The  
latter is used extensively for Solvent purposes.

Yours very truly,

*Wm A. E. ...*

*Thick*  
*388*

Jan. 13, 1907.

Mr. Edwin E. Slick,  
Vice President and General Manager,  
Cambria Steel Company,  
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Sir:

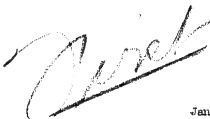
Your favor of the 11th instant has been received today, and I would say in reference thereto that you have probably seen my Engineer today, and have received information from him as to character of plant and the other points you mention.

We might not have been able to give you figure as to the cost of the original plant. I cannot state the exact amount yet, but it will be in the neighborhood of \$20,000 to \$25,000.

If we close the arrangement whereby I put in a benzol plant at your Coke ovens according to my proposal of January 7th, you will certainly be quite welcome to make full and free use of my designs, etc., in case you wish to install similar apparatus at the other Coke plant.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*



Jan. 14, 1915.

Mr. A. B. Rogers,  
Commissioner of Education,  
200 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 12th instant in regard to making an Exhibit at the First National Made in the U. S. A. Industrial Exposition. While I thank you for the opportunity offered, let me say that it is simply impossible for me to consider the matter at this time. We have recently had a disastrous fire at my plant, and I am working every moment day and night on its rehabilitation and reconstruction, and I cannot divert my attention from this work, which is the most essential thing to me at the present time.

I thank you for your recent invitation to become a member of the Advisory Committee. Just now when our regular routine is much disturbed, the letter has probably been mislaid. However, let me say in regard to this that I have decided to keep out of matters of a public nature. An acceptance of this position would bring large additions to my mail, and this I want to avoid as much as possible.

Yours very truly,

Jan. 16, 1915.

Mr. H. C. Folger, Jr., President,  
Standard Oil Company of New York,  
26 Broadway, N. Y. City.

Dear Mr. Folger:

Allow me to express my sincere thanks for your kind favor of the 14th instant in regard to the matter of transportation of benzol from England to the United States.

My mind is very much relieved as I learn from your letter that you will accommodate me by carrying some drums of benzol on your returning oil steamers. The question of freights on these shipments has been giving me much concern. I shall communicate with you when I am ready to make shipments, which will not be previous to the first of February. I would remove the drums from Bayonne to my Laboratory.

Once more expressing my appreciation of your courtesy and prompt response, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Charles D. Folger*



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436

Jan. 16, 1915.

Mr. H. W. Richards,  
Development Department,  
E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Powder Co.,  
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Mr. Richards:

Your favor of the 14th instant to Mr. Meadowcroft has been laid before me, and I beg to say in reply that I am so overloaded with work, including that relating to the designing of my benzol absorbing plant, that it is simply impossible for me to find time to do anything just now about the phenol scheme. I don't see how I shall be any less busy for the next four or five weeks, and therefore it might probably be well for you to take up the matter with someone else who can give you more immediate assistance.

In regard to the toluol from my benzol absorbing and refining plant I am really not ready to say anything definite about it. The trouble is that every moment of my time is given to the interests of the immediate present, and I am obliged to wait awhile before deciding about the future.

Yours very truly,

Herbert A. Edison

Jan. 19, 1916.

Mr. William Barbour, Pres.,  
The Linen Thread Company,  
96 & 98 Franklin Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Barbour:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 5th instant, in regard to electing me as one of the Managers of the American Protective Tariff League. I received a letter about this from Mr. Wakeman, and enclose you a copy of my reply to him, which I think will be self explanatory.

I regret that I cannot see my way clear to join your organization, and think that you will appreciate the reason as given in a letter to Mr. Wakeman.

Yours very truly,

H. A. Edison



Jan. 18, 1915.

Dr. John Grier Hibben,  
President, Princeton University,  
Princeton, N. J.

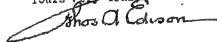
My dear Mr. Hibben:

To be quite frank, I am compelled to admit a considerable degree of embarrassment in replying to your kind favor of the 15th instant. I am keenly sensible of the honor that has already been conferred upon me by the action of your Board of Trustees, and appreciate it very highly, but the thought of facing a crowd of people fills me with a nervous apprehension. It has been so all through my life, and increasing years have not brought any change in this regard. It is positively beyond me to face a large audience.

Then, again, it would be out of my power to make an appointment for June. My factories were burned out a few weeks ago, and I am concentrating all my energies on their restoration and the resumption of business. Beside, I am obliged to design and equip three new plants for manufacturing products formerly imported by me from England and Germany. You will see, therefore, how impossible it is for me to make appointments for the future.

I think the cause of my embarrassment will be clear to you.

Yours very truly,



*First*

Jan. 19, 1915.

Hon. John L. Black.  
Mayor, Fort Huron,  
Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I received your telegram of the 15th instant, in regard to arranging a date for the home-coming week this summer.

In reply let me say that owing to the recent disastrous fire at my plant, I have been busy day and night ever since working to reconstruct the plant and for a regulation of business. This has occupied every moment of my time, and so far as I can see now I shall be busily occupied for several months to come, for the further reason that I am obliged to design and equip three (3) new manufacturing plants to make products which I used to import from England and Germany.

You will see therefore that it is utterly impossible for me to arrange any dates so far ahead. I shall be unable to go to Florida, and if I can possibly take a little time off at all this year I have promised my wife and family to go to the Panama Exposition. I cannot tell however what I shall be able to do even as to this, and am quite sure that I cannot arrange for any home-coming week this year.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*Knack*  
*560*

Jan. 21, 1915.

Mr. J. E. Ballantine,  
Engineer and Manager,  
Silver Plume Reduction Co.,  
Silver Plume, Colo.

Dear Mr. Ballantine:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 14th instant, which was read with a great deal of interest. Both Mr. Edison and I have wondered many times what progress you were making. He is very glad to have this present report, as it shows him where you now stand, and it is also encouraging from the fact that you look forward to a bright future.

You may still imagine that we have had some pretty lively times here since the fire. Mr. Edison has been full of vim and ambition to get started up again quickly. You know what he is when he thinks he can get a job done quickly, and there is no need for me to tell you that we have all been on the jump.

We are making very good progress, and are back in building 24, where the fire was very bad. We have been manufacturing blue amberol records for about ten (10) days and are just now starting on the disc records. I don't know whether or not you had any pictures of the fire, so I will send you a copy of the Edison Monthly for your information.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. Edison*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

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695

Jan. 20, 1915.

Mr. W. H. Blauvelt,  
Consulting Engineer,  
Smet-Solray Company,  
Syracuse, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Blauvelt:

I'm going to trouble you once more, and that is, by asking you if you will kindly inform me what branch of the Standard Oil I should apply to to obtain the absorbing oil. They have so many branches, that I want to make sure of applying to the right one.

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thos Edison

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396

Jan. 31, 1915.

Mr. C. L. Campbell, Chemical Engineer,  
E. B. Badger & Sons Company,  
65 - 75 Pitts Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Replying to your favor of the 19th instant in regard to the young chemist let me say that I have consulted Mr. Edison on the matter and he said that he will be glad to see the young man recommended by Prof. Walker. I expect that Mr. Edison will be here right along every day, but it might be well for the young man to advise me any day he is coming.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

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Jan. 21, 1915.

Mr. C. L. Campbell, Chemical Engineer,  
E. B. Badger & Sons Company,  
63-75 Pitts Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th instant in regard to changing of the plants in order that the still may be used for refining toluol. This has been laid before Mr. Edison, and he has noted your statement on this subject.

You ask later on in your letter whether Mr. Edison wishes you to render any assistance in the preparation of the plants for the supporting frame work. We have telegraphed you this morning that we already have drawings for the frame work, following out your sketch sent to us a few days ago. In regard to Mr. Lunt, Mr. Edison says it will be satisfactory if he will come here on Saturday.

I think you will be glad to see from the telegram that Mr. Edison thinks he has a chance to put in two more stills in a new plant.

Yours very truly,



Assistant to Mr. Edison.



*Woot*

Jan. 21, 1915.

Cambria Steel Company,  
Johnstown, Pa.

Gentlemen:

I write to confirm the following order which was given to you in my behalf by my Engineer, Mr. J. H. Mason, on the 19th instant. It is as follows:

"Please furnish material and do all necessary work to construct a benzol absorbing and distilling plant, per drawings supplied by Thomas A. Edison. The actual cost of this work, plus 15% to cover supervision and overhead, will be billed monthly to Mr. Edison. Mr. Edison will employ two inspectors to supervise the building of the plant, who will be supplied all necessary data for checking the time and material on the work progresses.

It is estimated that the building will cost, erected, \$60.00 a ton for structural material, and that corrugated steel roof and sides will cost, erected, eleven cents per square foot. The tank work and gas piping is estimated at three cents a pound, erected complete. The estimate cost of excavation is \$1.50 per yard and concrete \$6.00 a yard."

Very truly yours,

*Thomas A. Edison*

*Trick*

Jan. 21, 1915.

Mr. Merlin Davies,  
King George Apts.,  
Oldfield Avenue,  
Montreal, Can.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your recent favor, and beg to say in reply that we are now ready to ~~take~~ make a trial record of your voice. If you are coming to New York, and will call at our Recording Office, #79 Fifth Avenue, in that city and present this letter to Mr. Walter H. Miller, the Manager, he will have a trial disc record made, which will be sent over to Mr. Edison for his hearing.

It is understood, of course, that we do not pay expenses of singers coming to make trial records.

Yours very truly,

*J. H. Miller*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Jan. 19th, 1915

Mr. R. P. Wykes,  
The Arcade Emporium,  
Northampton, England.

Dear Mr. Wykes:

I write to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 2nd instant, and to thank you for your expression of sympathy in regard to the recent fire at my Plant. We have made such big progress in the last few weeks, that I feel as if I almost ought to take back that word "recent", as so much has happened that it seems longer ago than five weeks.

We have started again making the Blue Amberol records, and we shall soon be turning out the Disc record. We are making over one hundred phonographs today of the A-80 type, and it will not be long before we are in full swing all along the line.

I am glad to hear that you are doing so well with the Edison goods, and trust that this year will be one of unexampled prosperity with you.

Yours very truly,



Jan. 21, 1916.

Mrs. P. Arthur Dale,  
55 Shell Street,  
Burlington, Vt.

Dear Madam:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your kind favor of the 15th instant, and assure you that it gives me a great deal of pleasure to read your expression of opinion in regard to both the disc and cylinder phonographs. Letters of this kind afford me a peculiar pleasure, because I realize thereby that I have come pretty near approaching the high standard for which I have been laboring hard so many years, namely the pleasing of lovers of good music.

I would say in regard to the selection mentioned that I will have our Musical Department obtain the music for me, after which I will hear it and see if it will be acceptable for one of our commercial records. It will probably be two or three weeks before I can reach this, as I am very busy day and night on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of our plant here after the disastrous fire we had last month.

Thanking you for your letter, I remain,

Yours very truly,



January 22nd, 1915.

Mr. Geo. Orr, Supt.,  
Benj. Rose Estate,  
1027 Rose Building,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 14th instant has been handed to Mr. Edison. He has noted your desire to have a record made of the selection entitled "Father lead == by Thy Hand", by Butterfield.

He has instructed the head of our Music Department to obtain the music of this selection, which he will have sung to him in due time, and if he regards it as suitable for == records he will have the same recorded.

Yours very truly,  
Edison Laboratory.

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Jan. 21, 1915.

Mr. W. W. Richards,  
Development Department,  
E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Powder Co.,  
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Mr. Richards:

Please excuse the delay in replying to your favor of the 18th instant. I have been busy every moment.

Now, in regard to coming to any understanding as to the price of toluol, I feel a great disinclination to put a price on something which I have not yet produced. You must please bear in mind that this plant will be my first experience in absorbing and refining benzol and toluol on a commercial scale, and I want to see the plant in actual operation before stating any prices. I think you will be quite ready to admit that I am fair and reasonable, so, if you please, we'll let it go at that for the time being.

Yours very truly,



Jan. 22, 1915.

Mr. Albert J. Osgood,  
1625 H Street Northwest,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 16th instant has been received, and in reply I beg to say that I cannot consider your proposition favorably. We have had such bad experiences in the motion picture business in China that we do not want to do anything more in this line out there.

Yours very truly.




Jan. 21, 1915.

Mr. James H. White,  
Film Stock Company, Inc.,  
Longacre Building,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. White:

Your favor of the 19th instant was received, and I had a talk with Mr. Edison about it. He wants me to say that no carbolic acid is made in the United States except by himself and as he makes this for his own use for phonograph records, there is no picric acid being made in this country. He is not fixed up to make it from carbolic acid.

Yours very truly,

  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.





Jan. 23, 1915.

Mrs. F. P. Chalmers,  
1156 Parwell Avenue,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mrs. Chalmers:

At last I am in a position to report to you in regard to the record which you made at our New York Recording Rooms, but I regret to say that the report will not fulfill your expectations. Mr. Edison personally passes upon all records that are made, and he finds that your voice is not suitable for making phonograph records for us. The chief trouble, so far as his opinion goes, it has a very rapid tremolo, which is objectionable from his standpoint. He says in his remarks that until you could master this tremolo we could not take any songs for commercial purposes.

Naturally you will say that this tremolo was caused by nervousness, but he can distinguish between nervousness and a real tremolo. It will probably be new to you when I state that a singer's brain is not conscious of a real tremolo in the singer's voice. Very often, it cannot be heard by a second person, unless they listen intently with their ear only about a foot away from the singer's mouth.

Mr. Edison thinks that the tremolo is due to some mechanical (muscular) trouble which can possibly be remedied by incessant practice.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.



Jan. 23, 1915.

Hon. Calvin D. Paige,  
3d District Massachusetts,  
House of Representatives U. S.,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, together with copy of Bill H. R. 19187, all of which has had my careful attention.

As you are probably aware, there was a very destructive fire at my factories here last month, and the work of reconstruction and rehabilitation is so great that I am kept busy every moment, day and night. At this time I am so overworked that I simply could not go before the committee or even find time to write anything on the subject. I must asked to be considered as excused.

Yours very truly,

*Throck*

Jan. 26, 1915.

Mr. Nathan H. Alterman,  
Managing Director,  
The New York Music Lovers Society,  
Thirty-five East Second Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 21st instant to Mr. Edison has been received, and he requests me to say that he will be glad to see you whenever it is convenient for you to call. As I remember it, you rather prefer to call on a Saturday afternoon. If this is your wish, you may call on Saturday afternoon of this week anytime between two and five o'clock.

The way to get here is to take the Lackawanna Railroad and get off at Orange, then walk up one block to the main street and take a trolley car for West Orange. This will bring you right to the door in a few minutes. Ask in the Gate House by the brick building for me and I will arrange for you to see Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. L. Hursey*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Jna. 27, 1915.

Mr. E. J. Clark, Chief Engineer,  
Cambria Steel Company,  
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Clark:

This is to confirm telegram of even date.

In reference to the above I find on re-  
turning here it is necessary to set the stills in the  
building at such a height that the refined washed-oil  
will gravitate into one of the six thousand gallon  
tanks, setting just in front of your acid storage  
tanks. In fact it will be necessary to have the bottom  
of one of these six thousand gallon tanks at an ele-  
vation of twelve ninety. The elevation of the other  
six thousand gallon tank and the two one thousand  
gallon tanks is not material, and maybe anything be-  
tween the elevation shown in your drawing L25447,  
and an elevation of twelve ninety to suit your con-  
venience.

Yours very truly,

Jan. 26, 1915.

Mr. Fred H. Whiting,  
Framingham Improvement Association,  
Framingham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

Your very kind and interesting favor of the 22d instant has been received and I have considered it very carefully. I shall be very much interested to hear from you from time to time in regard to the results of your observations you make on the different classes of noise made by different types of records, especially if your observations indicate definitely that there is a difference in these records. My great job is to eliminate any noise whatever, and I am hoping and expecting that success will attend my efforts sooner or later.

Let me say for your information that we are now making the tools for a \$100 instrument which will be very similar to the \$250 instrument, but we cannot go any cheaper in that type without sacrificing the quality of certain kinds of records which I am striving to bring out, namely, records of large orchestras and of all of Beethoven's music.

Yours very truly,

366  
520

Jan. 27, 1915.

E. B. Badger & Sons Co.,  
63 - 75 Pitts Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I write just to let you know that we are running a race with others in regard to the installation of the benzol absorbing and distilling plant, and that everything else will be well ahead of the stills, so every day that you can save will be one more feather in your cap. I hope that this word will be an incentive to you to cut off every day you possibly can and forestall as much as possible the promised date of delivery of the stills.

When you are a little nearer to the point of shipping, please let me know so that we can follow up the shipment right from your plane. *by a man who will follow the same*

Yours very truly,

*Wm. E. Badger*

*Wet*  
509

Jan. 27, 1915.

Mr. E. W. Clark, Chief Engineer,  
Cambria Steel Company,  
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 25th instant, and would say in reply that Mr. Mason can give you all the details and particulars in regard to the crushing rolls that you mention. He is very familiar with them, and I would suggest your having a talk with him when he comes again to your plant.

In regard to the water and steam required by the stills and other apparatus in the benzol recovery building. I will give you this information a little later, but in plenty of time so that there will be no delay on that account.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A. Mason*

510  
597

Jan. 28, 1915.

Mr. E. W. Clark, Chief Engineer,  
Cambria Steel Company,  
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Clark:

Enclosed you will find a pencil sketch which shows three types of tanks. The Company we have been depending upon to make these tanks, are falling down on their work, and we would like to know if you could make these in your boiler shop. If possible, we will need them in about two or three weeks. We want one three foot by five foot tank as shown, with a loose top, one three foot by five foot with reasonably tight top, riveted in, and three three foot six inches by fourteen foot tanks with pipe connection as shown. There is nothing very particular about these tanks. If they are good enough for twenty or thirty pounds pressure it will be ample. We would suggest that it be made of one-fourth inch plate.

If, for any reason, you cannot handle this work, at the present time, please wire me and I will arrange to have it done elsewhere.

Yours very truly,

WFT





Jan. 27, 1915.

Dr. J. S. Corey,  
Progressive Publishing Co.,  
523 West Eighth Street,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 18th instant in regard to your book  
"The Soul, Its Organ and Development" has been received. I note  
your offer to send me a copy for examination, and shall be pleased  
to have you do so.

Yours very truly,

*p*

*W. A. C.*

Jan. 28, 1915.

Inland Steel Company,  
Indian Harbor, Ind.

Gentlemen:

Would your Company consider a proposal from me for me to erect a small Benzol Absorbing Plant at your works for absorbing the Benzol hydrocarbons from your gas. It makes an appreciable difference in the heating value of the gas, and would bring you in quite a revenue. It requires a specially designed apparatus to warrant its erection for so small a number of ovens as you have. It will not interfere in the slightest with your present method of operating.

Yours very truly,

*W. A. C.*

Jan. 28, 1915.

Woodward Iron Co.,  
Woodward, Ala.

Gentlemen:

Would your Company consider a proposal from me for me to erect a small Benzol Absorbing Plant at your works for absorbing the Benzol hydrocarbons from your gas. It makes an unappreciable difference in the heating value of the gas, and would bring you in quite a revenue. It requires a specially designed apparatus to warrant its erection for so small a number of ovens as you have. It will not interfere in the slightest with your present method of operating.

Yours very truly,

*Frank*

Dec. 14th, 1916.

Lumber:

Allow me to express my appreciation of sympathy in regard to the recent fire at my plant, and to thank you for your good wishes.

I am glad to say that my concrete buildings were not much hurt, and they can be repaired. We are hard at work now.

From what I hear, you are doing well with your system of Steel Forms for casting concrete houses commercially.

I hope you will cast the entire house at once before you get through.

Glad to note that you are so well pleased in taking my advice to go into this business. The future holds much for the poured concrete house.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. Edwards*

*Ther*

Jan. 29, 1915,

Mr. J. P. Schaeffer,  
T. Sommer, Inc.,  
262 Pearl Street  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 27th instant to Mr. Edison was received and laid before him. He says that if you wish you might come out and see him and he will talk this matter over with you. If you want to come to-morrow, anytime during the day up to four o'clock will be all right. Perhaps you had better telephone me before you come out.

Yours very truly,

*W. L. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*First*

Jan. 29, 1915.

First Ward Local Interest Club of East Orange,  
Mr. Bloomfield, Chairman,  
The Complaint Committee,  
46 East Park Street,  
East Orange, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of December 14th in regard to the matter of purifying the water of the stream flowing through our works was duly received.

I have been having the matter thoroughly investigated and now beg to say that there is nothing discharged from our Phonograph Plant or from the Storage Battery Plant that contains any organic matter, and therefore these discharges can have no offensive smell. A small amount of blue dye is discharged also, but this is nonputrefactive.

We discharge Sulphate of Iron, also Sodium Hypochlorite into the stream, but both of these substances are universally used for disinfecting putrifying organic matter.

I think there maybe something from the Wat Shops further up the stream, which coming in contact with the Sulphate of Iron from ~~our~~ factory, produces ~~some~~ chemical reaction. We will make some further investigations as soon as the water gets lower.

Yours very truly,



Jan. 30th, 1915.

Miss E. M. Knebler,  
177 Milford Avenue,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Madam:-

Your favor of the 26th instant has been received. Mr. Edison requests me to say that if you know "The Three Bears", you may come over here to the Laboratory and we will have our experts make a trial record. He mentions this selection because we have had other readers make trial records of it, and keep them all for comparison.

If you come over, please ask for Mr. Meadowcroft. The best way would be for you to telephone in advance of your coming, so as to make sure that our Recording men will be here.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

Derek

Jan. 30th, 1925.

Butte Phonograph Co.,  
Butte,  
Montana.

Gentlemen :-

Your favor of the 20th instant came duly to hand, and I beg to say in reply that the "Dorothy Three-Step" has been recorded and will be put out on the market just as soon as it comes through the factory. The same is engaged with "La Furlana".

As to the Brazilian Polka, you will find it has been recorded on the Blue Amberol, record #2518, February list.

Yours very truly,



443  
641

Jan. 30th, 1915.

Hon. E. Snowden Marshall,  
United States Attorney,  
Department of Justice,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I have received your favor of the 26th inst., asking me to hold myself in readiness to attend and testify in the case of United States vs. Cardwell et al on some date in February.

May I ask whether you could not take my testimony here, by deposition, as I am directing the work of 1700 men so as to get my factory back into active operation after the fire. The trip to New York, and the waiting that inevitably ensues in the trial of a case, loses me many very valuable hours, and I should be glad to avoid this loss if it can be so arranged.

Yours very truly,

515

Feb. 1, 1915.

The New England Gas and Coke Co.,  
111 Devonshire Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 30th ultimo has been received. Would you consider a proposition from me personally to put up an absorbing plant at my own expense, giving me a three year contract to take your benzoid hydrocarbons and refine them, I paying you cash for all shipped away. You would have the option to buy the plant at the end of the contract period at two-thirds of its cost (which is very reasonable), or I to have the right to remove the plant.

I can erect a plant to absorb three thousand gallons of crude per day in sixty-five working days.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

Feb. 2, 1915.

*W. S. Gray*

Mr. P. Lallott, Jr.,  
Purchasing Department,  
E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Powder Co.,  
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Sir:

Our purchasing department has shown us your favor of the 29th ultimo in regard to the various shipments of benzol sent to you to be fractionated.

Mr. Deeming, our purchasing agent, is writing to you to-day giving you the numbers of drums and other details in regard to the two shipments of 90% benzol made by us to your Harlin Jorks. The shipments I refer to were one of 11,536 gallons, covered by purchasing order #25049, and the shipment of 10,197 gallons covered by purchase order #25577. Therefore, I shall not concern myself about these two shipments, but confine my remarks to the shipment of 90% benzol acquired by your company through me, from W. S. Gray & Company.

Our purchase order #25644 refers to a carload of 90% benzol purchased by your company through me from W. S. Gray & Company, on January 15th, 1915. The understanding was that in consideration of our helping your company to acquire this carload for the sake of the toluol content, you would furnish us with all the C. P. benzol obtained from this shipment, and furnish it to us at thirty-seven (37) cents per gallon, you retaining the toluol.

The carload of 90% benzol referred to in our purchase order #25992 was arranged for under precisely the same conditions and at same price as the above, but the arrangements were made within the last few days. It is quite true that the offer was more or less tentative to me for a day or two, but the sale was made definite in about three days after the original offer. I understand from W. S. Gray & Company that this sale has been consummated between you and them. I assume that you have requested W. S. Gray & Company to furnish you the information in regard to weights and order number.

Yours very truly,

*W. S. Gray*

Feb. 2, 1915.

*Wak*  
*680*

Mr. G. C. Thorp, V. Pres.,  
Indiana Steel Company,  
208 South La Salle Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 28th ultimo, and in reply beg to say that I have nothing to offer in regard to Benzol Recovery Plant. I was turned down by the U. S. Steel Corporation in New York when I wanted to do something and was ready to do it quickly.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

520  
620

Feb. 3, 1916.

F. D. Badger & Sons Co.,  
63 - 75 Pitts Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

Your telegram of this day was good news to Mr. Edison.  
He was highly pleased. I sent you the following telegram by  
Postal:

"Good - Ship stills and apparatus to Thomas  
A. Edison, care Cambria Steel Company, Johnstown, Pa. Wire me all particulars as to routing and we will follow up.

W. H. Meadowcroft."

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Frank*  
710

Feb. 3, 1915.

Mr. P. D. Block, Vice Pres.,  
Inland Steel Company,  
First National Bank Bldg.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the first instant has been received, and I beg to thank you for your prompt reply to my letter of the 20th ultimo in regard to the benzol.

Would you consider a proposition from me, personally, to put up at my own expense a plant to absorb the benzoid hydrocarbons from your gas. This would make a crude product, for which I would pay cash as shipped.

Your plant is too small to put up a regular Benzol Absorbing Plant. It would not pay to put up an elaborate outfit of that kind, but I have a specially devised plant for producing the crude only. This crude would be refined at my own refining plant at Orange.

Awaiting the favor of your reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. E. Eason*

260

Feb. 3, 1915.

Dr. F. W. Caldwell,  
460 Park Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Caldwell:

If I do not answer letter promptly I am sure you will deem me quite excusable, as we are very very busy just now. Mr. Dickerson stated a fact when he told you that he left us because his work here was finished. This is the second time he has worked for Mr. Edison, and has always been satisfactory. I hope he will develop well for you.

If I come across another good man I will

let you know.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Wish*

Feb. 3, 1915.

Monsanto Chemical Works,  
1800 South Second St.,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 27th ultimo, and beg to ask how much per day of phenol (melting point 41, white crystals) can you get along with?

The pressure brought to bear upon me from England and France is so great that I am planning a larger phenol plant, and if the contracts go through I could probably supply you.

The trouble is the limited supply of benzol. I am now erecting an absorbing plant at some Coke ovens in Pennsylvania, and rather expect to start another similar plant in an entirely different location within the near future.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A. Edison*



*First*  
*595*

Feb. 4, 1916.

Mr. William B. McKay, Gen'l Mgr.,  
The New England Gas and Coke Co.,  
111 Devonshire Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the third instant. In reply let me say that on January 10th I closed a contract with the Cambria Steel Company for erecting an absorbing plant at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, capable of absorbing three thousand gallons of crude per day. The plant will be in operation the first of next month. The contract is for three years.

The Cambria rented me sufficient ground for the plant. As they are crowded, I divided the plant in two parts, five hundred feet apart, to suit their conditions, and to prevent any expense to them for piping. The total area occupied by us is about 377 feet by an average width of 55 feet. In this area is included everything.

I put the plant in entirely at my own expense, absorbed the benzoid hydrocarbons, and return the gas without disturbing their routine. My plant redistills the crude, and I ship only pure benzol and toluol.

I pay the Cambria Company eighteen (18) cents per United States gallon for all benzol and toluol shipped from the plant; also ten (10) cents per gallon for xylol and solvent naphtha, reserving the right to return these to the gas if I cannot sell the same at a profit.

I buy steam from the Cambria Company at the prevailing rate, and they furnish me with water. I sell my waste acids to them at a lower price than they now pay, for use in their ammonia apparatus.

The Cambria Company have the right after the three year period of the contract to buy the plant at two-thirds of its actual cost, and I may remove it, but in any event, for a period of five years thereafter I have the right to buy benzol from their plant, if they have any, at the true market prices, to the extent of my requirements.

The cost of operation is about nine cents for labor, material and general expense. This, with freight and amortization of the plant over three years, brings the cost per gallon rather high for future sales, and I am compelled to sell to outsiders all I make beyond my own wants (over the three year period). If these people give proper guarantees, I will be in a position to negotiate with you if you like. The normal price, when there is no war, is around thirty cents per gallon for pure, in drums, and twenty-eight cents for large lots. The commercial,

- 2 -

or 20%, in drums, is twenty-five cents per gallon and twenty-two cents for large lots.

It would take probably sixty working days to get a plant in operation at your place. I work very quick.

I use the benzol to make synthetic carbolite acid, which is used in the manufacture of 78 disc phonograph records. I am now sucking upward of one ton of carbolite per day.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. A. Edison*

P. 5

*Actual space*

*Exhausting Tower 90x20*

*Refining House 40x60*

*Operating Tanks 30x60*

*Storage Tanks 40x65*

*Several hundred feet of separation is possible  
only requires more pipe.*

*Its only Exhausting Tower & Exhauster that need  
be close to your mains -*

*Edison*



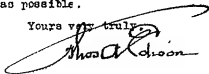
Feb. 3, 1915.

Mrs. A. E. Stewart,  
Leavenworth, Ind.

Dear Madam:

I have received your favor of the 27th ultimo, and beg to say in reply that I have given instructions to our Recording Department to make a record of the song "Where the River Shannon Flows", and we shall arrange to put it out as a disc records as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,



Thomas A. Edison

*First*  
614

Feb. 5, 1925.

Mr. W. J. Gray, Pres.,  
Republic Iron & Steel Co.,  
Youngstown, O.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the third instant, and regret to see that I did not make my first letter sufficiently clear.

My proposition is that I would personally put in the Benzol Absorbing Plant at my own expense, you investing nothing. I would pay for the products at a price to be agreed upon for all of such products shipped from the plant. The contract is made on a three year basis.

The number of cranes you have is too small to warrant putting up a regular Benzol Absorbing Plant. It would not pay to put up an elaborate outfit of that kind, but I have a specially devised plant for producing the crude only. This crude would be refined at my own refining plant at Orange.

I am prepared to move quickly, and could put in a plant in a very short time if we come to an understanding.

Yours very truly

*J. E. C.*  
J. E. C.

*March*  
*623*

Feb. 5, 1915.

J. H. Plummer, Esq.,  
President, Dominion Steel Co.,  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I have had a long interview with your Mr. Lucas, and am writing this simply to confirm what he will tell you, namely, that on account of the delay in coming to an understanding about the Benzol Plant, I am compelled to withdraw from any further negotiations. This, however, will not prevent you from putting up my design of Benzol Plant with your own capital a little later.

After you have seen my plant in operation at the Cambria Works, which I hope will be running by the first of March, I think we shall be able to come to an understanding which will be satisfactory to you.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Harrison*



Feb. 5, 1915.

Mr. Albert Lewis,  
Room 807,  
52 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

In consideration of your having been instrumental in arranging with Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Company of New York for the purchase from me of a supply of toluol for one year, as per copy agreement attached, I hereby agree to pay to you five cents for every gallon of toluol sold to and paid for by said J. P. Morgan & Company. Such payments to you to be made by me as I receive the various payments from J. P. Morgan & Company.

Yours very truly,





Feb. 5, 1915.

Mr. Charles H. Botsford,  
Room 1535  
25 Broad Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Botsford:

I have received your favor of the 30th ultimo. Let me say in reply that we do not advertise our singers to any great extent, like the Victor, as it hurts the sales of singers' records.

The Victor built up its business on advertising artists who are celebrated. Most of these singers have become successful not on account of their voices, but by reason of their acting, their personality, together with the public's recollection of the stage environment and the satisfying of the eye. People who have seen and heard them, buy their records, and then find something missing. Somehow, they are disappointed without knowing why. The consequence is that many people stop buying opera records. As a matter of fact, the sales of opera records only reach about three per cent of the total sales of records.

So far as I am concerned, I pay no attention to reputation. If the singer has a fine voice I make records; if not, no amount of reputation will induce me to record them. The consequence is that most of my opera singers have nearly as great, and some greater, percentages of sales as of the popular stuff.

If Yvonne de Tréville would like to make a trial record for me, she can arrange with the Manager of my Recording Studio, Mr. Walter H. Miller, at #79 Fifth Avenue, New York. If her trial record is found to be all right I will make a business arrangement with her.

Yours very truly,



Feb. 5, 1915.

Miss Isabelle Clark,  
600 West 138th St.,  
New York City.

My dear Miss Clark:

I have received your kind favor of the first instant, which has afforded me much pleasure in the reading. Let me say that I am delighted to have the aid of your niece, whose voice is so fine and records so well.

If you are coming out toward Orange some day, and would like to drop in at the Laboratory, I should like to see you, and your niece also if she is with you.

Yours very truly,





Feb. 5, 1915.

Dr. J. Hirsch,  
Roentgen Ray Association of Greater New York,  
Ninety-six Park Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the second instant has been received, and I wish to extend my thanks to you for the invitation to attend the meeting of the Roentgen Ray Association of New York on April 20th, and to make an address.

I appreciate your courtesy in extending this invitation, but I shall have to ask you to excuse me from accepting it. I have practically ceased attending public functions, as it is simply impossible with my deafness to hear anything that is going on two feet away, and life becomes quite a burden for the two or three hours during which I am compelled to sit still and do nothing and know nothing of what is going on around me.

Yours very truly,

603

Feb. 8th, 1915.

Mr. C. J. Bray, President,  
Republic Iron & Steel Co.,  
Youngstown, O.

Dear Sir:

Your telegram of this date was received, and by Mr. Edison's direction I sent you the following:

"Glad to see you any day this week. Kindly wire when you decide to come."

Thos. A. Edison."

I presume you will probably come by way of New York. If you should come by the Pennsylvania, and wish to come direct here, you could leave the train at Newark and take a West Orange trolley which leaves from the Market Street Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Newark, N. J. This car would bring you right to the door.

Should you come to New York first, let me say that the best way to come here is by the Lackawanna Railroad, which leaves the 23rd Street, Christopher Street, and Canal Street ferries in New York, or any of the Tunnel Stations. Get off at Orange and walk one block up to the main street, where you can get the trolley car marked West Orange. This brings you right to the door. If you will kindly inquire for me or Mr. H. F. Miller, one of us will see that you are brought to Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Wick*  
*1/27*

Feb. 8th. 1910.

H<sup>ts</sup> Britannic Majesty's Government,  
J. P. Morgan & Company, Agent,  
25 Wall Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sirs:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the  
6th instant concerning the sale of Colucl to the British  
Government and hereby confirm the understanding as expressed  
in your said letter.

Yours very truly,

*W. A. G. L.*

594

Feb. 8, 1915.

Mr. William E. Mokey, General Manager,  
New England Gas and Coke Company,  
111 Devonshire Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 6th instant, and would say in reply that the complete cost of my Benzol Plant at the Cambria Steel Company, for two thousand gallons of crude per day, is estimated at about \$40,000.00, with an additional \$11,000 to bring the capacity of the plant up to three thousand gallons per day. In designing the plant originally I provided for this increase. I am quoting round figures, as the plant is not yet finished, but the figures above given I regard as conservative.

Let me call your attention to the fact that the only moving mechanism in the plant consists of pumps and exhauster. Therefore, the depreciation should be rather small. The price of eighteen (18) cents per gallon is for pure Benzol and Toluol shipped from the plant, and, if saleable, commercial Xylol at ten (10) cents per gallon. Of course, Solvent Naphtha is sold crude. I am doubtful about Xylol and the Solvent Naphtha after say, two years from now. That is the reason I reserve the right to put it back into the gas if unprofitable to me.

I would not care to make 90% Benzol, as I specialize on "pure", free of Cs and Thiopin. This is not easy.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison



Feb. 9th. 1915.

Mrs. Karl C. Roebeling,  
211 State Street, West,  
Trenton, N. J.

Dear Mrs. Roebeling:

Your favor of the 30th  
ultimo caught me at an unusually busy time;  
hence the delay in reply.

I have sympathy for the  
babies but no knack of writing verses, so I  
fell back on my son Charles, who is the fam-  
ily poet. I hope his verses will answer  
your good purpose.

Yours very truly,



575

Feb. 9th. 1915.

Messrs. E. B. Badger & Sons Co.,  
63-75 Pitts Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Attention Mr. C. L. Campbell,  
Chemist Engineer.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 6th instant to Mr. Meadowcroft, with erection blue prints and shipping memoranda, have been shown to me.

I am deeply gratified at your expeditious handling of my order for these two stills and congratulate you on being able to do better than your promise. I expect to have some more orders for you before long; so please bear me in mind and don't tie up too close.

I should be very glad indeed to have Mr. Lunt go and look over the plant at the Cambria Steel Company when he goes to Western Pennsylvania. He may find Mr. Mason there, but if not, let him ask for our Mr. John Bacon, Jr.

Yours very truly,

*Shos A. Bacon*

132  
622

Feb. 8th. 1915.

Messrs. Harger & Blish,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Gentlemen:

Your friend of the Santa Fe Watch is a very critical person. However, I want criticisms, although it is some work to explain, but in this case I will try to make my ideas and policies clear.

1st. I am more interested in getting good mechanisms, and especially good reproducers than in cabinets. I neglect cabinets. If your friend only knew how many reproducers were discarded and changed, how many diaphragms had to be discarded to get them equal to a standard, (sometimes ten reproducers are discarded to get one, and these discards must have new diaphragms and, sometimes, levers, or cords). He would see that we don't get results without great expense and that I prefer good machinery to high grade furniture. It is easy to say why not give us a 150 cabinet in a 100 machine, but if I did I would have to go out of business.

2nd. He talks about the label. There is no know material that will stick to the substance of which the records are made, and I'll bet I have tried two thousand things. Again, out of forty pigments and one hundred and twenty-six Aniline dyes not a single one retains its color after it has passed through the 360 degrees of heat in the press.

3rd. Of course, you will be asked frequently about Caruso, Melba, Scotti, etc., on the Edison. About every dealer I know of says he stated to inquire that if they buy an Edison machine they can use an attachment and buy and play any kind of a record, but the public don't seem to hanker after these high grade artists of the Victor after they have bought the attachment.

With the exception of Caruso, nearly every Grand Opera artist got their reputation not by their voice but by personality, by acting, and the glamour of the stage. We cannot use the eye with the phonograph, hence only Grand Opera singers with good voices can be used, and I have nearly all of them. I am not going to queer the Diamond Disc by a poor singer, no matter what their reputation in Opera may be. Let me say that Scotti has lost his voice almost entirely, but because he is one of the best actors on the Operatic Stage and a great favorite, am I to have him sing on the phonograph merely on account of his great reputation? I prefer

that the Victor should do this. Why don't Helba sing for the Opera and get the \$1500 per night she once obtained? The explanation is simple. Her voice has faded, but that don't phase the Victor because their entire business has been built up on advertising Grand Opera Singers, who in the case of the best known, got their reputation by nothing. I shall not follow this method of selling goods, because, in the long run, I do not think it will win. He speaks of the Sextette from Napoli and Quartette from Rigoletto. I have taken a dozen of these records by different combinations of Grand Opera singers, two of them at Milan, Italy, from the best artists of the La Scala, but they were not what I would like to put out. We are new in the Disc line. I have had worlds of trouble to get where I am and have an enormous number of fine records recorded but I cannot put them out as fast as I would like. However, things will mend in time.

I had records of McCormack but did not use him because of his shake. The reason McCormack is so popular on the Victor is that he is the only singer except one who has very strong overtones and they are so strong that the Victor reproduces a few, and makes his records very mellow. The public like them. He sort of makes up for the defects of the instrument.

As to Lauder. He must have known that Lauder was tied up with the Victor, although he sings for us on Cylinder.

The price he says should be on the face of the record. How does he know that there might not be some very good reason why it should not be on? I can't go into lengthy explanations as to this, but there is a good technical reason or I would have put it on. I should be credited in cases like this with as much intelligence as the general average of the genus homo.

I return the letter of the Santa Fe Watch Company.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. A. Edison*



604  
 669

Feb. 9th. 1915.

Mr. J. R. Pinner,  
 Hotel Manhattan,  
 Madison Ave. and Forty-second St.,  
 New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your telegram to Mr. Edison was received to-day, and according to his instructions I have telegraphed you that he would be glad to see you anytime to-morrow, and have suggested to you in the telegram that you telephone me from New York before coming out so that we can make sure of his being here.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. Pinner*  
 Assistant to Mr. Edison

Take Lackawanna RR. Get off at Orange.  
 Walk one block to Main St. Take trolley  
 for West Orange. It will let you off  
 at our door.



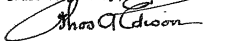
Feb. 9th. 1915.

Mrs. Paul F. Devine,  
332 West North Street,  
Lima, O.

Dear Madam:

I am in receipt of your favor of the second instant, and thank you for your kind words in regard to the Diamond Disc Phonograph. Your request for a record of "Then you and I were Young Maggie" has been noted, and I have given instructions to the head of the Musical Department to make this record, which you will find on the list in good time.

Yours very truly,



615

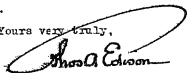
Feb. 9th. 1915.

His Britannic Majesty's Government,  
J. P. Morgan & Company, Agent,  
23 Wall Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sirs:

I have received your favor of the 8th instant, and  
in reply beg to say that my plant will be in operation about  
March first, and then I shall be able to state whether or not  
I can meet the specifications for Voluol set forth in yoursaid  
letter of the 8th instant.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Edison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

583

Feb. 9th. 1915,

Albert F. Otto & Sons, Inc.,  
1876 Broadway, N. Y. City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 6th instant has been received, and I beg to say in reply that I have only one plant for absorbing Benzol and Toluol from coke oven gases, and I use the Benzol for the manufacture of Carbolie Acid for my own use in making phonograph records. I am negotiating to erect two more plants, but in all cases I only ship pure Benzol and Toluol.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

Thrust

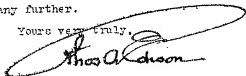
Feb. 9th. 1915.

Mr. L. P. Paul,  
3032 Portland Ave.,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the second instant has been received, and we thank you for your kind interest in calling attention to the idea of a pneumatic plunger. I would say in regard to this that I tried this scheme on fifty machine, but the device was found to be unreliable in the hands of the public, so we took them off and have not tried it any further.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas A. Edison

*Truer*

Feb. 10th. 1915.

Dr. V. L. King.  
Wood Ridge, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 7th instant to Mr. Edison has been received and its contents carefully noted. He requests us to say that he will give you an interview here at the Laboratory any day.

If you will kindly call me up on the telephone when you propose to come over, I will tell you whether it is a favorable time.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. Halladay*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

645

Feb. 9th. 1915.

Mr. C. Henninger,  
316 E. 90th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 29th ultimo to Mr. Edison was received, and he requests us to say in reply that out of your list we have recorded several, for instance, Same Sort of Girl, one step, is in our January list (see also Girl From Utah, [2496] Good-bye Girls is in our March list of Blue Amberol Records as a song, Aba Daba Honeymoon is in our December list as a song.

We will get the others and submit them to Mr. Edison. If he approves them they will be recorded in due course.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.

*THOMAS*

48

Feb. 11th, 1928.

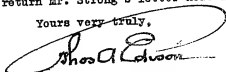
Mr. H. H. Blish,  
811 Walnut Street,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Blish:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 3rd instant in regard to the cracking of records. Let me say in reply that this cracking will soon disappear. You may send the cracked ones back for credit, but please don't kick too much as long as we do the most of the suffering.

I return Mr. Strong's letter herewith.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thos. A. Edison", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "T".



*First*

Feb. 11th, 1915.

Mr. James H. Brady,  
Sunset Publishing House,  
460 Fourth Street,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 1st instant, and would say that if you will send me a small sample of the 98% pure copper, tempered to the hardness of steel, and also a small sample of the alloy, I will see if your young friend is correct in his statement.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. Brown*

*Threat*

Feb. 10th. 1918.

Dr. Robert Sreskine Ely, Director,  
The Civic Forum,  
147 West 48th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Ely:

Mrs. Edison has shown me your letters to her of the 20th ultimo and the 3rd instant in regard to the award of a Medal of Honor to me by the Civic Forum. You desire to have some indication of a date when I could attend the meeting to receive this Medal.

I am willing to admit some embarrassment in making a suitable reply. I am not insensible of the honor thus sought to be conferred upon me, but, although I appreciate it in its fullest sense, I should be very greatly pleased to be excused from attending a function of this kind.

There are several reasons. The principal one is that I do not like to make positive appointments for any distant day, as, at the time specified, I might be in the midst of an important experiment which could only be neglected at the cost of a great sacrifice. Then, again, a great crowd of people me embarrasses me, that I doubt whether that I would be even able to say "thank you". In the next place I am grown so deaf that I cannot hear anything that is going on two feet away from me, so I have practically decided to give up appointments at any public functions.

Under all the circumstances, I trust that my desire to be excused will not seem unreasonable.

Yours very truly,

647

Feb. 10th. 1925.

Miss Ada Gardiner,  
The Lafayette,  
Portland, Me.

Dear Miss Gardiner:

I have been greatly interested in reading your recent letter to Mr. Meadowcroft. It always gives me much pleasure to read letters of intelligent criticisms and suggestions, especially from those for whom I have been working, namely, lovers of good music. I am certainly very much gratified to learn that the music reproduced by the Diamond Disc has been so useful and helpful during your sickness.

Now in regard to speed, let me say that we have great trouble in keeping the speed constant at 80 revolutions. Our later machines keep the speed constant for days within two degrees. The inequality is due to the varying friction on the governor. I always play the machine at 78 revolutions or less, as the pitch of modern music is too high and unnatural. Some music lovers run at 75 revolutions.

I think that the Parlow record #80079 was discarded from the catalog because we accidentally destroyed the mold. I have tried to get her to play again for us. Naxos is making more records, and we have lots of Spalding records coming along, also several by Fleisch.

I am going to have three McFarlane songs and the other music obtained and performed for me so that I may see that they are suitable for disc records.

With good wishes for the recovery of your health,  
I remain,

Yours very truly,



Feb. 9th. 1915.

Mr. J. Nienstadt,  
517 East 26th St.,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I received your favor of the second instant, which had my careful attention. I regret exceedingly to learn of the unsatisfactory treatment that you have received, and am sorry that it is not within my power to rectify this particular transaction. The point is that the "Edison Shop" is simply one of our dealers, and our Company here has no control whatever over their methods of doing business.

We had a bad fire here a few weeks ago, which has delayed us in getting out new machines, but after March first you ought to be able to get a new one.

So I think that you had better let the matter rest till you have been to Florida. When you return from the South write me again, and I will see if I can help you out at the "Edison Shop".

Yours very truly,

*Thist*

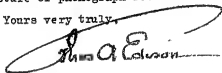
Feb. 11th. 1916.

Mr. C. S. Palmer,  
Connellsville High School,  
Connellsville, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 3rd instant, and in reply beg to say that I am putting up a plant to absorb the Benzol from the By-products gas of the Coke ovens at the Cambria Steel Company's works at Johnstown, Pa. An absorbing plant of this kind cannot be used on the ordinary beehive coke oven, but only on the By-product coke ovens, like those at the Cambria Company's works. Benzol is the basis for all Aniline dyes, but I use it to make Carbolio Acid synthetically, which I employ in the manufacture of phonograph records.

Yours very truly,

H. A. Edison

*Thresh*

Feb. 9th. 1915.

Mr. Merton H. Rice,  
949 Van Ness Ave.,  
Tempe, Arizona.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 30th ultimo, I beg to say that in my opinion War is not a biological necessity. I think that the only practical way of handling the matter would be that if our German brothers are obliged to give up, the Allies, the United States and all the smaller countries, including Germany and Austria ought to enter into a compact to Police the World on joint account. Should any nation thereafter show a tendency to militarism, the World Police to immediately jump on the backslider and confiscate the armament.

However, it is a gigantic task to get people to agree to any joint scheme.

Yours very truly,

*Thirt*

Vol. 26, 1925.

Hon. Benjamin F. Tillman, S. C.,  
Chairman, United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

Friend Tillman:

You are mistaken about sleep. Remember that for forty years I have had squads of men who worked for me in my campaigns of experimenting, sometimes for several weeks, sometimes for months, with only four to four and one-half hours sleep, and, in some cases, two hours only, out of twenty-four. The universal opinion of the men, (and sometimes there were as many as one hundred fifty), was that they never felt better. Of course the usual occupation of these men was a dull, dead, routine, but when they got with me on a big experiment, their mental activity was enormously increased; they became brighter-eyed, quicker in their movements and lost the lassitude of most men.

I am certain, from actual experiments with men that for health, there are three things that will fit a majority:

(1) Eat the smallest possible amount of plain food that will keep your weight constant. This takes several months to accomplish, because one must allow the stomach to shrink to normal size and get into the habit.

(2) Sleep not more than six hours and even five after a year's experience.

(3) Keep intensely mentally active. Engage in more schemes or plans than you can possibly attend to and try to accomplish every one of them.

When I go to Washington I will certainly come and see you. Did you ever read the classic "Life of Cornaro"? If not, get it. A broken down wreck who at forty changed his mode of life and lived one hundred years.

Yours very truly,

574

Feb. 11th. 1910.

Mr. G. O. Thorp, V. Pres.,  
Indiana Steel Company,  
208 South La Salle Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the ninth instant, and would say in reply that the reason I stated in my previous letter that I had nothing to offer in regard to a Benzol Recovery Plant was due to the fact that I have been informed that your coke oven plant belongs to the United States Steel Corporation.

If you are independent of them, I may be able to make you a proposition.

Yours very truly,

  
Charles A. Larson



*Thos*

Feb. 11th. 1915

The Wyckoff Pipe and Creosoting Co. Inc.,  
50 Church Street,  
New York City

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 10th. instant, and in reply beg to say that in my plant at Johnstown, Pennsylvania I expect to absorb only Benzol, Toluel, Xylol, and Solvent Naphtha. The creosotes that you want can only be obtained from the tar. Perhaps you can obtain what you wish from the Dominion Tar and Chemical Company, Sydney, N. S. you can obtain creosote from Scotland, as there is no embargo. I suppose, however, that freight will be difficult to get.

I understand that the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company have, or had after the war~~ing~~ commenced, about two million gallons at Paterson, N. J. Possibly they might sell some.

Could you not use wood tar creosote?

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

155

Feb. 11th, 1915.

Mr. Frederic A. Whiting,  
11 State Street,  
Framingham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Whiting:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 5th instant, which has been read with a great deal of interest.

If you have any cracked records, it is our fault, and if you will send them to my assistant, Mr. W. H. Meadowcroft, at this address, by Parcel Post, I will exchange them without charge.

In regard to noisy records, let me say that our matrix from which we press the records, gets rougher as more records are printed from it and we are obliged to discard these matrices after about 125 prints have been made. The noisy ones are those that are printed last from the matrix. I am experimenting to put a stop to this trouble.

Yours very truly,



Thomas Edison

First

Feb. 11th. 1915.

Prof. Francis B. Crocker,  
Crocker-Wheeler Company,  
Amperre, N. J.

Dear Mr. Crocker:

I received your favor of the sixth instant,  
and also copy of the January 28th issue of the American  
Machinist. I read the article with a good deal of interest.

It's hard to "crush" some people.

Yours very truly,

Thos A Edison

Frank

Feb. 11th. 1915.

Mr. A. P. Cramer,  
Bureau of Employment of the Chemists' Club, Inc.,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the sixth instant has been received.  
In reply I beg to say that I could not use the chemist who  
has specialized on lithia, as I have contracted with a  
neighboring chemical works for my lithia. I stopped working  
on it myself.

I want a young chemist who can play with the Benzol  
nucleus like a Japanese juggler juggles with plates. Have  
you got one?

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*Thirst*

Feb. 11th. 1915.

Mr. George B. Gaston,  
Department of Public Works,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Mr. Gaston:

I have received your favor of the fifth instant, and would say that you have come to the right shop to have phonograph records made. Just now we are turning out about thirty thousand a day.

I will get the music of the songs you mention in your letter, and if they appeal to me as being appropriate for our records I will have them recorded and have them put on our Cylinder list.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Phos A. Edison*

*Give my regards to your sister Daisy*

*E*



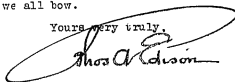
Feb. 11th. 1915.

Mr. W. C. Hanna,  
California Portland Cement Co.,  
Colton, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the first instant was received, and I beg to say in reply that the long kiln itself was due to the physicist; the quality of its increased product due to the chemist. After a cement mill is built, the chemist is the master to whom we all bow.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas Edison

First

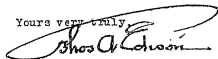
Feb. 11th. 1915. .

Merck & Company.  
45 Park Place.  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I beg to thank you for the copy of the second edition,  
revised, of "Chemical Reagents: Their Purity & Tests". I have  
looked it over and wish to assure you that in my opinion it is  
fine.

Yours very truly,

  
Thomas A. Edison

437

Feb. 11th. 1915.

Mr. C. C. Silzer, V. Pres.,  
Harger & Hish,  
Des Moines, Ia.

Dear Mr. Silzer:

I am in receipt of your favor of the fourth instant in regard to piano records. I want to say in reply that our piano technic is not good enough in my opinion. I have two records containing piano solos, which I have passed for printing and distribution. Every one says they are fine, but I cannot see it. I hope to improve on recording of the piano before long.

Yours very truly,



Thomas A. Edison



393

Feb. 12th. 1915.

Mr. W. H. Blauvelt,  
Consulting Engineer,  
Barnet-Solway Company,  
Syracuse, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Blauvelt:

I am somewhat puzzled about one thing, and that is how much of the hydrocarbons we should try to absorb in the oil. The divergence of figures is quite notable. Some say 1% while others say 4%. I should regard your opinion as authoritative.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Thomas Edison*

581

Feb. 12th. 1915.

W. H. S. Gallery, Pres.,  
Henson Portland Cement Co.,  
Shoartsville, N. J.

Dear Gallery:

I received your telegram of congratulation yesterday, and want to express my thanks to you therefor. From the report Henson has made to me this morning in regard to the Benzol Plant at Johnstown, it looks as though we would do some pretty quick work up there.

Yours,

*W. H. S. Gallery*  
W. H. S. Gallery

699

Just

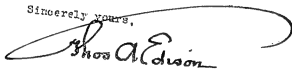
Feb. 13th. 1916.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie,  
2 East 90th Street,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Carnegie:

Many thanks for your telegram of  
congratulations and good wishes for my birthday.  
I am afraid it is beyond me to take your advice;  
my own experience prompts me to suggest that you  
do not make the mistake of taking too much rest  
yourself. Keep that brain of yours at full power.  
If you stop, it will atrophy; then you are done  
for.

Sincerely yours,

 Thomas A. Edison

Trust

Feb. 12th. 1915.

Hon. Josephus Daniels,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Daniels:

Your kind birthday note reached me yesterday and added greatly to the enjoyment of the occasion. I have got to the time of life now when birthdays seem to roll around more quickly than they used to. Still, they bring to me some consolation in the way of the gracious and pleasant remembrances of my friends. Your little son's improvement on Rip Van Winkle was all right, and worthy of riper years.

The whole Edison family, including myself, of course, send cordial greetings to you and your amiable partner and to the whole family, and with many thanks for all your good wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



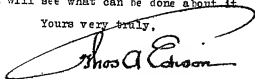
Feb. 13th, 1916.

Mr. Charles A. Danforth, C. S.,  
171 Westminster Street,  
Providence, R. I.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the eighth instant has been handed to me, and I note your suggestion of bringing out three or four of the Christian Science solos, as mentioned by you. I am looking into this matter personally and will see what can be done about it.

Yours very truly,



First

Feb. 13th. 1915.

Mr. Henry Ford,  
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Ford:

Let me thank you for the sixty-eight thousand congratulations that you sent me for my birthday yesterday, and also for all your good wishes. It was all very cheering to me, and I want to thank you all very much.

We are making great progress around here. Everything is booming. We are making about twenty thousand cylinder records a day and some six or seven thousand disc records daily, and a large number of mechanisms for machines. We have developed an entirely new model of Disc Machine, which has been completed within sixty days, including tools, jigs etc., for its manufacture, and we are now shipping them out to customers. The Storage Battery business is picking up. I had a telegram from the Secretary of the Navy yesterday telling me he had just signed the order for a set of our batteries for a new submarine, (\$90,000) and had reported to me later in the day that a large order was coming our way for use with the wireless.

These and other cheering items were quite sufficient to make my birthday a pleasant one to remember.

With kindest regards to you all, I remain

Yours very truly,

James A. Edison

W. W. W.

Feb. 13th. 1915.

General Chemical Company,  
25 Broad Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Referring to the conversation between your Mr. Parker and Mr. Meadowcroft, my Assistant, I beg to say that in connection with my carboric acid plant I am now using daily about eleven thousand pounds of 98% sulphuric acid, and expect to increase it to twenty thousand pounds daily within the next three or four weeks.

I am now ready to contract with you for my requirements for one year, and if you will kindly submit contract I will give the same immediate consideration. Possibly it might be well to allow for a possible 10% increase.

As you are probably aware, I am putting up a Benzol Absorbing Plant at the Cambria Steel works, Johnstown, Pennsylvania and expect to put it in operation by March first. I expect to require about one ton a day of 98% sulphuric acid in connection with that plant. I should be glad to have you submit a contract for this requirement also for one year, but if agreeable to you would rather wait until about March first to complete the contract in this case, so that I may be entirely certain as to requirements.

Yours very truly,

Thos A. Edison

Wink

Feb. 12, 1915.

Mr. Charles H. Schwab,  
Bethlehem Steel Company,  
South Bethlehem, Pa.

My dear Mr. Schwab:

Your very kind message of congratulation and good wishes came to me yesterday and was greatly appreciated. It seems to me though these birthdays come too fast, but there is one consolation, and that is, they bring me lots of cheering and acceptable messages from my good friends.

With kind regards and many thanks, I remain,

Yours very truly,



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Feb. 13th. 1915.

Mr. P. D. Block, Vice Pres.,  
Inland Steel Company,  
First National Bank Bldg.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Would you consider a proposition for me to erect a Benzol absorbing plant at your works at my own expense, you making no investment except furnishing me water and selling me steam if you have it, I paying you P. O. B. cents thirteen and one-half (13 1/2) cents for all pure Benzol and Solmol shipped away, and eight (8) cents for all Xylol and Solvent Naphtha. I reserving the right to put the Xylol and Solvent naphtha back into the gas in case I cannot sell it at a profit.

Contract to last three years, I reserving the right to stop in case the plant becomes unprofitable, and remove the movable parts. In that event I would give you option to buy plant at two-thirds the actual cost which would be less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). I could erect the plant, I think, in sixty working days.

Is your gas rich?

Yours very truly,

Howard Edison

**General Letterbook Series  
Letterbook, LB-102 (1915)**

This letterbook covers the period February-April 1915. Most of the correspondence is by Edison and William H. Meadowcroft. The letters mainly relate to World War I, the disruption of markets for the carbolic acid (phenol) used in the manufacture of phonograph records, and Edison's production of chemicals for his businesses, including the establishment of benzol absorbing plants in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and Woodward, Alabama. There are also references to other business propositions, including the sale of Edison's surplus stocks of benzol, toluol, and other chemical products. The correspondents include Edward R. Stettinius of J. P. Morgan & Co. and representatives of Mitsui & Co.

The spine is stamped "Letters" and is marked "T.A.E. From Feb. 13, 1915 to Mar. 31 1915." The number "40" also appears on the spine. The book contains 701 numbered pages and an index. Approximately 15 percent of the book has been selected.

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Woodrow, O. N.	141-
Wiarda + Co. J. C.	192-
Wilson, A.	249-250-
Woodworth Jr. C. N.	257-
Williams, C. W.	324-
Wood, J. H.	338-
Wyman, W. B.	4500-
Wiegandsky, L. von	525-
Willert J.	570-
Wolfe Co, J.	599-
Woodward, Major J. C.	600-
Williams, C. F.	691-

Yardley, J.  
Winger, L. H.

8-  
355-

Zimmerman, C. W.  
Zelmer Supply Co. W. A.  
Zieber, E. H.  
Zaremba Co.

87-  
387-  
529-  
601-

Y  
Z

Feb. 13th. 1915.

Miss India Waelohli,  
2 West 121st Street,  
New York City.

Dear Miss Waelohli:

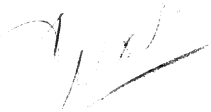
I must ask you to kindly pardon the delay in replying to your favor of the eighth instant. I have been so exceedingly busy this week on important matters for Mr. Edison that my correspondence has been badly neglected.

If you will take this letter down to Mr. W. H. Miller, the Manager of our Recording Department at 79 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. City, he will make a disc record of one of your songs and send it over to Mr. Edison for hearing.

Kindly explain to Mr. Miller that you have been introduced by a very old friend of ours connected with the General Electric Company.

Possibly you might telephone to Mr. Miller before you go downtown, and tell him that you have a letter for him.

Yours very truly,



Feb. 15th. 1915.

Mr. William Wallace Canon,  
290 Clifton Avenue,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the ninth instant to Mr. Edison was received. In reply I beg to say that we shall be glad to take a trial record of your voice if you will call here some day and ask for me. I would suggest that you telephone me in advance a day or two before you intend to come, so that we may have an accompanist here to play for you.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Wick*  
*32*

Feb. 16th. 1915.

Mr. J. H. Plummer, Pres.,  
Dominion Iron & Steel Co.,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir:

Referring to our previous discussions as to my assisting you to plan and erect a Benschel absorbing plant at your coke ovens at Sydney, your Mr. F. E. Lucas has handed to me your telegram to him dated February 15th, 1915, reading as follows:

"Montreal, Que. Feb. 15, 1915.

Mr. F. E. Lucas,  
Waldorf Astoria,  
New York.

You can say to Mr. Edison, I am authorized by the President to accept your proposal respecting the erection of a Benschel Plant at Sydney on line your Cambria Plant. You are to give us use your patents, patterns, blue prints plants and information as to purchase of materials, and reasonable technical advice during construction and operation, and general assistance on lines discussed. We understand this is for our own use only. We are to pay you as consideration for services and plans above enumerated one cent per gallon on all Benschel Soluol Krolol and Partha, shipped from the plant so erected for three years. Further, you are to have option for three years to buy Benschel for your own use up to eight hundred gallons daily at twenty five cents United States gallon, delivered F. O. B. Orange. Quantity to be delivered under this option to be declared three months in advance for each period of three months. Any duty to be borne by purchaser and drums to be returned with reasonable despatch.

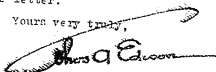
J. H. Plummer,  
President Dominion Iron & Steel Co."

-2-

I beg to say that I hereby agree to the arrangement as stated in the above telegram, with only one exception, which is, that I cannot agree to pay the duty on Benzol which you might ship to me over the border. It is understood that any Benzol shipped to me under the above option at twenty five cents per United States gallon is to be what is known as "C.P." or "Pure" Benzol.

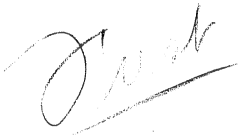
Will you please signify your acceptance of the whole arrangement, exception and understanding by signing the acceptance at the foot of this letter.

Yours very truly,



We accept the  
above

31  
/ 114



Feb. 15th. 1915.

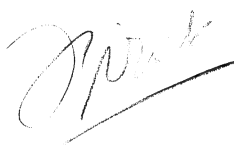
Mr. H. Selzer,  
Otto Blau-Gas Co.,  
803 Central Avenue,  
Nebraska City, Nebr.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 10th instant has been received. There have been a number of reasons for the delay in reply to your previous letter, and the least of which was the disastrous fire we had here in December.

The proposition that I have in mind is the opening of a store for the sale of my new Diamond Disc Phonograph, exclusively. We opened an experimental one here in Orange, and it has been very successful indeed. Frequently the business is conducted by some one who also sells other articles, and does not specialize on one thing. The capital required would not be very great, and from the experience which the Orange store has had, I should regard it as a safe investment. Please let me know what you think of the idea.

Yours very truly,



Feb. 15th. 1915.

Mr. E. P. Wheaton, Managing Editor,  
National News Service,  
406 World Building,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your favor of the fifth instant, in regard to a set of phonograph records embodying instructions in modern ballroom dancing, I beg to say that we have just made records of this kind but they are by Mr. W. Pitt Rivers and not by Mr. Durant.

These records will soon appear on our lists.

Yours very truly,



Feb. 16th. 1915.

Woodward Iron Co.,

Woodward, Ala.

Gentlemen:

I received your favor of the 1st instant stating that your Mr. Woodward was absent, but on his return you would promptly submit to him my letter asking if you would consider a proposition from me to put up a Benzol absorbing plant at your Coke ovens.

As I am still without reply I assume he must still be absent. My proposition calls for no investment on your part.

Yours very truly

*Wm*  
*205*

Feb. 16th. 1915.

Mr. Emerson P. Harris,  
16 Rockledge Road,  
Montclair, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 10th instant, I beg to say that the idea I put out was to establish what I call a "Samaritan market" where poor people could purchase the necessities of life in five cent quantities but on the basis of carload prices. My idea included the using of automatic packing machine and the slot device.

I have never had time to start one of these enterprises, as I have been worked up to the limit in other fields.

Yours very truly,

Went  
370

Feb. 17th. 1915.

Mr. Nathan C. Johnson,  
140 Cedar Street,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Johnson:

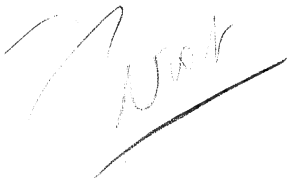
Mr. Meadowcroft has laid before me your favor of the third instant, and also the bound book containing a statement of your work on cement with the microscope. This is very interesting and valuable, and I beg to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to look it over.

The microscope is truly a very practicable instrument for studying cement as commercially used, and yours is the first paper on the subject that I have seen. The microscope detects about everything bad that can take place. There is very little doubt in my mind that we do not get more than one-fifth of the value out of cement, and we never will until we grind it as fine as strontium carbonate, mix it perfectly, and throw waves in the wet mixture by pumping it to get the air out.

I am returning your book by prepaid express to-day.

Yours very truly,

Charles E. Johnson



Feb. 16th. 1915.

Mrs. Rosa M. Willson,  
Huron, O.

Dear Mrs. Willson:

I have received your kind note of the eighth instant, which I read with a great deal of interest. Yes, I remember Charles King and am glad to hear that he is still enjoying life. It seems a very long time to me since I saw him, for so much has transpired in my life in all these years.

I am glad to learn that you are well, and trust you may live as long as my father did, namely to 94, especially if you keep your health.

Yours very truly,

Feb. 17th. 1915.

*Recd*  
*403*

Mr. Charles E. Spiers,  
D. Van Nostrand Co.,  
25 Park Place,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Spiers:

Your favor of the 16th instant has been received, and also the package of books which you sent yesterday. Mr. Edison has kept the Shultz and Julius "Organic Coloring Matters", and I have returned the other four books by express today.

Mr. Edison says it is not necessary to take any steps about getting the other books mentioned.

Thanking you for your prompt attention and courtesy, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Drak*

Feb. 17th. 1915.

Warren Hardy, Esq.,  
821 - 822 Central Bldg.,  
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 27th ultimo was received. In reply I beg to say that I still control the patents of Talking Motion Pictures. As these pictures were put out before the public during the last three years it was only as a novelty, and in that form is no longer commercial.

I intend to take up the subject again in the Fall, but generally like to work out such things myself, as I have carried on a long line of experiments for a great many years and have the matter well under way.

I could not offer your client any inducement to come East to experiment on this line.

Yours very truly,



Feb. 20th. 1915.

Orr and Sembover,  
Reading, Pa.

Gentlemen:

Do you make enameled steam jacketed kettles for nitrating hydrocarbons? If so, kindly send me whatever printed matter you have in relation therefor, together with prices, and what you could do in the way of delivery.

I am interested in all kinds of steam jacketed kettles, so you may send me particulars of all other kinds that you make.

Yours very truly,

J. W. Orr

53  

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233

Feb. 20th. 1915.

E. B. Badger & Sons Co.,  
63 - 75 Pitts Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

We are very sorry indeed to learn that your Mr. Campbell is ill, and trust that his is not a serious case and that he will make a quick recovery.

Mr. Edison wants me to write and say to your Mr. Lunt that we are ready to redistill the toluol at our Chemical Works, but he has not yet sent the extra device which he said was necessary to handle the higher boiling point toluol.

Will you please send it on at your earliest convenience, and oblige.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. Lunt*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.





Feb. 20th. 1915.

Mr. Arthur H. Dammun, Sec'y.,  
Navy League of the United States,  
Southern Building,  
Washington, D. C.

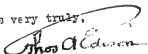
Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 16th instant, in regard to the convention of the Navy League of the United States at San Francisco, and would say this is the first intimation I have had in regard to acting as delegate.

Let me say in reply to your letter that it will be utterly impossible for me to attend the convention or to act as a delegate. I am busy from 18 to 20 hours a day on my large business interests and experimental work, and for this and other reasons, I have practically withdrawn from taking any part in functions of a public nature.

Therefore, I cannot act as delegate, and if my name has been placed on a list of delegates, I beg to ask that it would be withdrawn.

Yours very truly,



*First*  
*626*

Feb. 20th. 1915.

Mr. Richard Noble,  
Sheriden,  
Hiles Beny,  
County Down,  
Ireland.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your interesting favor of the fourth instant, which has afforded me much gratification. I thank you for the kind words you are pleased to say in regard to myself and the phonograph.

I am always glad to receive letters from those who desire to have the better class of music. Some of the stuff that we are obliged to put out is awful, but I record and market as much of the finer class of music as the general public will stand for.

In due time I expect to record all the great compositions, and think that ultimately I shall be able to make records of even large orchestras.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

Feb. 22nd, 1915.

*Throck*  
*299*

Mr. R. H. Banister, Sec'y  
Woodward Iron Company,  
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th instant, and in reply beg to say that my proposition is to put in a plant, at my own expense, to treat about 12 or 14 million feet of gas daily.

This plant is especially designed to be made cheaply, with high operating cost, instead of large investment and low operating cost, in order to take advantage of high prices which will last during the War and probably only a short time afterward.

The erection of my plant would not prevent you from considering the installation of a permanent plant and would give you plenty of time to erect it, and in the meantime you would be receiving an income from my plant without the investment of any money on your part. I could erect a plant in 60 days. At the Cambria Steel Company's Coke Ovens I started to erect a plant on the 20th of last month, and it will be running on March first.

We pay fourteen (14) cents per gallon for pure Benzol and Soluol shipped away from the plant, and ten (10) cents per gallon for Xylol and Solvent Naphthas, but reserve the right to put back into the gas the Xylol and Naphtha in case we cannot sell it at a profit. Contract to be for three years, one year firm, and as to the other two years we have the right to give up and remove the removable part of the apparatus in case we cannot make it pay at the price paid you.

Yours very truly,  
*J. C. B.*

117

Feb. 22nd. 1915.

Mr. P. D. Block, V. Pres.,  
Inland Steel Company,  
First National Bank Bldg.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th instant,  
and am sorry your people could not see their way clear to let  
me put in my plant. I feel almost certain that I could have  
earned enough for you to pay for your permanent plant and give  
you plenty of time to erect it. Under my proposition no one could  
lose anything but myself

Yours very truly,  
*[Signature]*

116  
265

Feb. 22nd. 1915.

Mr. William E. McKay, General Manager,  
New England Gas and Coke Company,  
111 Devonshire Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 19th instant, and shall be glad to hear further from you after the return of the President of your Company.

In regard to the Benzol Recovery Plant at the Lackawanna Steel Company, I would say that this plant is not being erected by me. I danced attendance on their Board of Directors for six weeks and then gave it up as hopeless. They are now about to put in a standard plant, which will probably take eight months to complete. If they had accepted my offer promptly they would now be selling their product at a good price and would have plenty of time to put in their permanent plant at much less cost, if they desire to do so.

I find I shall not be able to pay more than fourteen (14) cents per gallon for pure Benzol and Toluol shipped away from the plant, and every day that I lose makes it more of a gamble on my part, as prices will go to pieces, comparatively, when the War is over.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. Edison*

Trust

Feb. 20th. 1915.

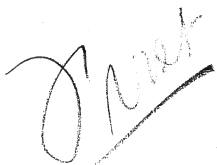
Mr. V. Gordon Stair, Sales Manager,  
The McHurray Sully Company,  
Marion, O.

Dear Sir:

Your message of congratulations and good wishes on my birthday was received, and I write to express my thanks to you for your kind remembrance of the occasion.

It is a source of much gratification to me to learn that you are so well pleased with the Dictating Machines which you purchased from us some years ago, and I trust that you will be able to make use of the later improvements. As you are probably aware, it is a matter of pride with me to have satisfied customers.

Yours very truly,



Feb. 22nd. 1915.

Mr. J. Tagliatela,  
249 Eighth Avenue,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 12th instant was received and has had Mr. Edison's personal attention. He wishes me to say to you that while he has not any work for you at the present, he may have later on. He thinks you had better come over to the Laboratory and let him hear you play. He will be busy tomorrow, and therefore could not hear you, but on Wednesday or Thursday if you will come around and ask for me I will arrange to have Mr. Edison hear you. Possibly you might have to wait awhile as he might be engaged when you call, but we will arrange for him to hear you.

Yours very truly,



Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Direct*

RECEIVED

22nd. 1916.

Mr. Dudley S. Crandall,  
Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

Dear Mr. Crandall:

I have received your interesting letter of the 16th instant, and thank you for your congratulations and good wishes in regard to my birthday. They are all greatly appreciated.

It is quite true that I did talk to the representative of the World in regard to the hardening of the arteries, and I still think that that is what causes the disease that we term old age. I think that mostly hardening of the arteries comes from French cooks, too many cocktails and too much ambition in regard to the quantity of food eaten. I have tried moderation, eat little, and my arteries are as soft as those of a baby.

The human body must have sulphur, and it usually gets sufficient through the regular food that is eaten, especially eggs.

Phosphorous in olive oil will catch fire in the air, and water will not put it out.

Sulphur will not burn in a closed box. If you put a hole in it and place the sulphur over the water the oxygen will come in the hole for sulphurous oxide. This gas will be absorbed by the water and combine to form sulphurous acid.

I hope you will live to a hundred. We will run a race.

Yours very truly,



Direct

Feb. 22nd. 1915.

Mr. William S. Fleming,  
Box 638,  
Montgomery, Ala.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 17th instant, and would say in reply that I have lost so much money on experimenting with color photography that just now I have a sort of "grouch" on the subject, and have lost all interest therein for the time being.

Thanking you for your kind offer, I remain,

Yours very truly,

108

Feb. 22nd. 1915.

Mr. W. P. Harris, Pres.,  
Montclair Co-operative Society,  
517 Bloomfield Avenue,  
Montclair, N. J.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Replying to your favor of the 18th instant, I beg  
to say that if you will come over some day this week I will give  
you the five minutes you ask.

You had better telephone to my Assistant, Mr. W. E.  
Hedowcroft before coming over.

Yours very truly,



Feb. 22nd. 1915.

Mr. Albert E. Hoyt, Sec'y.,  
State of New York Conservation Commission,  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 18th instant, and am very greatly pleased to learn that the recital given by Mr. Morgan was so satisfactory to the members of your Club. Your kind expressions of opinion in regard to the Diamond Disc Phonograph are greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly.

*W. H. H.*

Feb. 23rd. 1915

Rev. Eugene C. Makosky,  
First Methodist Protestant Church,  
Clinton and Treacy Avenues,  
Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 22nd instant has been handed to me, and I hasten to express my regrets on learning of the unfortunate experience you had last Friday night in connection with the Diamond Disc Phonograph Recital.

The young man whom I employ to give these recitals are selected with the utmost care that we can exercise, and this is the first instance of misbehavior that we have experienced. Mr. Kitts had been with us only a few days, and none of us were aware that he was a drinking man. Being a minister of the Gospel you well understand that the frailties of human nature will crop up in most unexpected ways.

I am deeply chagrined at this unfortunate occurrence, and shall be obliged if you will kindly express to your people my great regret that the pleasure of the evening should have been thus marred by the misconduct of one of my men. I trust you will give me an opportunity to make reparation by giving you another recital on some day to be arranged.

Let me add that such an experience will not be repeated in any other case, so far as Mr. Kitts is concerned, as I have dismissed him from my employ at once. I would not retain in my employ a man of this kind.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. H.*



Feb. 22nd, 1915.

Mr. A. A. Holbeck, Chief Engineer,  
The Bonnet Company,  
Canton, O.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 19th instant, I beg to say that the explosion you refer to was occasioned by fine coal dust catching fire and burning slowly in a pit, thus forming an explosive gas with the air. This exploded and killed five men. Please let me emphasize the fact that it was not the dust itself that exploded.

Yours very truly,

*W. H. R.*

Feb. 24th. 1915.

The Heller & Hertz Company,  
Newark, N. J.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 22nd instant in reference to the distillation that you made of our Toluol in your Laboratory.

We have the same Laboratory apparatus that you describe, and 70% was what we obtained.

I am expecting to distill your 1800 gallons in the near future.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Wilson*

H. H. R.

*J. N. H.*  
*284*

Feb. 24th. 1918.

Mr. E. C. Liebold,  
Mr. Henry Ford,  
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Liebold:

Mr. Edison wants me to write and ask you to  
ascertain and advise me as to what angle you place your screw  
machines relative to the line shafting.

An early reply would be greatly appreciated

by Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. H. ...*  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Thos. H.*

Feb. 22nd. 1911

Mr. Chas. H. McCurrie.  
2225 Clinton Avenue,  
Alameda, Cal.

Dear Mr. McCurrie:

Your favor of the 14th instant came to hand, and I have also received today a copy of the allegorical cantata "In Quest of Truth". Allow me to express my appreciation of the compliment you have paid me in sending me a copy of this cantata. I shall have it played and sung for me. If the music is as good as the beautiful piece of mimeograph printing that you have done, congratulations will be in order.

Yours very truly,

*Thos. H. McCurrie*



Twist

Feb. 22nd. 1915.

Phonograph Shop Ltd.,  
167 Sparks Street,  
Ottawa, Canada.

ATTENTION OF MR. H. HUGHES.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 17th instant has been referred to me, and in reply I beg to say that we shall have plenty of the kind of records you mention, both on the Disc and on the Cylinder.

As to French records, the market is so limited that we have not made many of them. However, we have recently contracted with Mme. Verlet, Prima Donna of the Grand Opera in Paris. She is now the greatest Coloratura soprano in the world. She will sing mostly in French.

We cannot get any more records from Mme. Delna until the War is over.

Yours very truly,

150  
260

Feb. 24th. 1915.

A. P. Badger & Sons Co.,  
63-75 Fifth Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 23rd instant in regard to the two distilling apparatus for the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, and have shown same to Mr. Edison. He wishes me to say to you that the Dominion Iron and Steel Company is going to duplicate Mr. Edison's plant at Cambria Steel Works, and therefore the stills will be just the same.

He also requests me to ask you not to forget that he cannot distill his Coluol at Silver Lake because Mr. Hunt has not fixed up the still as he promised. (Just as I reached this part of the letter your telegram had been received, so I shall expect your letter and blue print in the morning.)

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*288*

Feb. 25th. 1915.

Mr. F. E. Lucas,  
Dominion Iron & Steel Co.,  
112 St. James Street,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Mr. Lucas:

Your favor of the 24th instant was received and shown to Mr. Edison at once. He has instructed me to send you the following telegram.

"Tar Oil Distilling over between 240 and 300 Centigrade best for absorbing - none over 300 should be used.

If Hirschel still for distilling off Benzol is kept at 115 Centigrade there is practically no loss of oil for months, but should be cleaned by distillation when it becomes loaded with Tar and Naphthalene as absorbing power diminishes."

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Wick*  
250

Feb. 26th, 1915.

Mr. Archdale Wilson.  
Hamilton, Ontario.  
Canada.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 19th instant is received. Why do you not buy an attachment whereby you can play Victor records on our machine much better than the "tutor machine" plan? You can then hear whether these great artists have voices which can be characterized as great. They are great artists, not because of their voices, but on account of their acting and personality. There are only three good voices in the Opera at New York, to wit, Caruso, Matzenauer and Case; the others are great artists but have poor voices. The voices of Melba, Schumann-Heinkel, Denbrough, and Barnes, have faded. The Victor Company have built up their business entirely by persistent advertising of these artists, but they said nothing about being great singers. Just get the records, and see if they are great singers.

I am afraid you will feel hurt when I tell you that the members of our bands and orchestras are the highest paid instrumentalists in the United States. They are the rick of the men from the New York Symphony, The Philharmonic Society, and the Metropolitan Opera House Orchestras and professional soloists. They play for us day times, when off rehearsal.

You cannot get from Church Choirs but very few good voices. Should you ever come to Orange we can show you the records of more than three thousand voices, not more than fifty of which are good. There isn't but one good choir singer in New York Churches.

As to "One Sweetly Solenn Thought", I will look into the matter. I will probably find as I have found in many other cases, that it is given as "Trillings", and the starter is to blame. Not 10% of Beethoven's music is published as it should be.

You say I should supply the tracing stand with 4 cheap machines and only good stuff to refine it with expensive machines. That was my original idea, but I soon found that the theory didn't work. The people who buy the trachs are the owners of high priced machines. This is probably due to the younger members of the family.

I think you are in the same position now as I was at first, unaware of the "fake" in music. For instance, one of the greatest orchestra leaders in the world is Toscanini of the Metropolitan Opera House, who conducts fifty-four operas from memory. For two years he has been criticized by every musical critic in New York for playing the orchestra too loud when the singers were at work, on the ground that the people came to hear the singing not the orchestra. Yet he paid no attention to the criticism for the reason that he was compelled to do it by the singers themselves so as to drown the defects of their voices. That part that gets over the orchestra sounds good, especially when the eye is satisfied, but this kind of a singer is a pretty raw proposition on a phonograph which records and reproduces every defect.

You will find in time that the Edison will have all the really great singers and instrumentalists and at the same time the Victor may have the great artists. We have now records of Mme. Verlet, Prima Donna of the Paris Opera House, the greatest Coloratura Soprano in the world.

Should you ever come to New York come over and see me.

Yours very truly,

249

180  
446

Feb. 26th. 1915.

Mr. William E. McKay, General Manager,  
The New England Gas & Coke Company,  
111 Devonshire Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 25th instant,  
contents of which have been noted.

You can install a temporary absorber, costing you  
about twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000), to make very crude  
Benzol and relieve the pressure that is existing at present  
for Benzol. You could sell it to a number of people and get  
back your investment and make a fine profit in a few months.

Our Government was short of Picric Acid, which as  
you probably know is made from Carbolio Acid. I am letting  
them have all the Carbolio for which I can get Benzol, but  
since your letter has been received I fear I have arrived  
at pretty near the end of my rope.

Yours very truly,

N. A. Edison



Feb. 26th. 1915.

Mr. Moritz P. Rubinstein,  
504 West 161st Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 25th instant to Mr. Edison was received. He requests us to say in reply that he is so exceedingly busy here that he will not be able to listen personally to Mr. Rosenblatt. He can go to our Recording Department at 79 Fifth Avenue and make a trial record there of any one of the standard operatic selections. This will be sent over to Mr. Edison for his hearing. He is so exceedingly busy now that he will not have time to hear Mr. Rosenblatt personally.

If you go with him to our Recording Department, you can also make a trial record, which can also be sent over to Mr. Edison.

Yours very truly,

Edison Laboratory.



Feb. 27th. 1915.

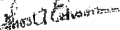
Bostwick & Thoms,  
Two Rector Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your questions propounded in your favor of the 24th instant, I beg to answer as follows:

1. Mr. Beach has had hundreds of interviews with me. I cannot give the date of the one you refer to.
2. Mr. Monoks came to see me, and Mr. Beach frequently mentioned his name. I cannot remember Coghlan.
3. For a long time Mr. Beach wanted the exclusive agency for the Edison Storage Battery for battery cars in Australia. I have always refused to give it.
4. I think Mr. Beach had many interviews with Mr. Stevens of our Foreign Department.
5. I don't remember that he did.
6. I always told Mr. Beach that the Australian rights to the Edison Storage Battery could not be had as regards cars.

Yours very truly,







Feb. 20th, 1915.

Mr. Cloyd M. Chapman,  
Westinghouse Church Kerr & Co.,  
37 Wall Street,  
New York City.


Dear Mr. Chapman:

I brought your letter to Mr. Edison's attention, as promised, and he made a memorandum on it for reply. I cannot tell for the life of me whether I have already sent you the reply or not, but I am afraid I didn't, because your letter is turning up in a place where it ought not to have been.

Mr. Edison wanted me to say to you that the Benzol Plant is too involved for outsiders who have not had any previous experience in this line, and he has had to do it himself. The Cambria Company did the steel work, all set up, at an exceedingly low price.

He says that he tried linseed oil treatment, and it seems good, but he is trying a lot of other things.

Yours very truly,

  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

224  
489

Feb. 27th. 1915.

Mr. E. G. Liebold,  
Sec'y. to Henry Ford,  
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Liebold:

I have received your favor of the 25th instant in regard to an Efficiency Engineer, and have shown the same to Mr. Edison.

He wishes me to say that he has all the details that ~~have~~ been published in several numbers of the Engineering News, and all he wants is one man familiar with the lay out, a man who could give him information for say a week. Mr. Edison says the fact is, he has no one whom he can send. He is laying out the whole plant himself with the aid of draughtsmen. He thinks that after he gets through, Mr. Ford will be pleased with it.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

169  
430

Mar. 1st. 1915.

Mr. R. H. Benister, Sec'y.,  
Woodward Iron Company,  
Woodward, Ala.

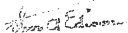
Dear Sir:

I have received today your favor of the 25th ultimo,  
and in order to give you the information as quickly as possi-  
ble I have sent you a night letter telegram as follows:

"Usual amount absorbable hydrocarbons two to two  
and half gallon per ton coal coked. Think your  
gas will give fully two and half, of which 67  
per cent Benzol, 17 Toluol, balance Xylol and  
Solvent Naphthas."

Trusting that this will give you the desired infor-  
mation, I remain,

Yours very truly,



Mar. 1st. 1915.

Mr. F. E. Lucas,  
112 St. James St.,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Mr. Lucas:

The following is very important. Please read carefully.

You should provide for a scrubber filled with gravel, or broken stone, or steel plates (not excelsior or any other combustible), to take the hot gases from heating of your retorts, and cool them down to 75 Fahr. or less. The object of this is that if you open the benzol absorbing towers at any time you can shut off the regular gas and pass the cold carbonic gas through to wash out the regular gas.

When you close the absorbing towers again, ready to pass the regular gas through, you should first pass the cold carbonic gas through the absorbing towers and test it at the other end to see that it comes through freely and that all air has been displaced before you pass the regular gas through. Otherwise, you may get explosions. We had a small one at Cambria, and will put the scrubber in and have it going tomorrow.

Benzol is the only gas that electrifies by friction and gives sparks. If there is any air in the system you would be liable to have these explosions. Therefore, it is better to displace all air that comes in by using well cooled carbonic acid gas from your stacks. In Germany it is compulsory. I forgot to do it.

I suggest also that you "ground" the system electrically by connecting a wire to the pipes going into wet soil.

Yours very truly,

*Wick*

FEB. 26th. 1915.

Mr. Sidney B. Paine, Mgr.,  
Mill Power Department,  
General Electric Company,  
84 State Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Paine:

I have received your favor of the 23rd instant, and am glad to hear from you after the lapse of such a long time. I see you are one of the few who have stuck to the game all these years, and I trust everything is well with you.

I shall be glad to shake hands with your nephew, but would say for your information that he comes too late, as all furniture for the offices was bought some little time ago and most of it has been delivered.

Some day, when you are in this vicinity, drop in at the Laboratory.

Yours very truly,

245

Mar. 1st. 1915.

Mr. Herbert J. Turney,  
Adjutant General's Department,  
Office of Judge the Advocate General,  
Cleveland, O.

Dear Sir:

Since writing you a few days ago I have found your  
favor of the 17th instant, and beg to say in reply that the  
matter you refer to will receive ~~my~~ investigation.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.



Mar. 2nd. 1915.

Mr. John Barrett,  
Director General,  
Pan-American Union,  
Washington, D. C.

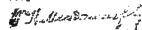
Dear Sir:

Your telegram to Mr. Edison was received at his house last night, hence the delay in reply until today. He has wired you that any hour on Friday will be agreeable, from nine in the morning to five in the evening, except between one and two o'clock.

The best way to come here from New York is by the Lackawanna Railroad, and I enclose time table herewith.

You should leave the train at Orange. If you walk up to the Main street, which is ~~one~~ block from the station, you can get a trolley car for West Orange. This will bring you right to the door of the Laboratory. The Laboratory is a brick building surrounded by a fence. There is a Gate-House there, and if you ask for me, I will attend to the rest.

Yours very truly,

  
Assistant to Mr. Edison.

12  
Not a copy

Mar. 1st. 1915.

*Wash*  
*431*

Mrs. Bleecker Bangs,  
400 Lafayette Avenue,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

I have received your favor of the 24th ultimo, and would say in reply that by long practice I have schooled myself to eat very little, - a little indeed that a working girl would consider it, as she would think that it was not enough. Most people eat two or three times too much, thus filling their systems with poisons and laying themselves open to all kinds of diseases.

One pound of food daily is, in my opinion, plenty for a shop girl. It may be of great variety, including bread, butter, beans, pork, codfish, smoked herring, peas, potatoes etc. With a little gas stove and a few dishes and a study of the subject, a couple of girls can live finely for a surprisingly small amount of money, and be more healthy and have better complexions than if they lived at Delmonico's.

Cooking is a study in chemistry, and also an art that can be easily acquired.

Yours very truly,



67

Mar. 1st. 1915.

Mr. William Rice Hochster.  
67 - 89 Fifth Avenue.  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 24th instant was received. In reply I beg to say that on account of our disastrous fire at this plant in December we are not just ready to take up the question of the mostyl-cellulose at this time. We are, however, interested in getting some sheet celluloid 1/32" thick, of good texture. Do you make it?

Yours very truly,

*Frank*

March 2nd, 1915.

Mr. W. H. Mason,  
Coke Oven Department,  
Carnegie Steel Co.,  
Johnstown, Pa.

Dear Mr. Mason:

I received this morning the two photographs which you sent of the Banzel Plant, taken on February 25th. I showed them to Mr. Mason and he was much pleased with them.

He wants you to have a photograph also of the Absorbing Towers at rather close range, and then wants a half a dozen copies of all of the photographs, including those sent yesterday and the new one which I have just mentioned, and possibly any others that you may think well to have made. Will you please have this matter attended to at your earliest convenience?

Yours very truly,

*Foot*

Mar. 1st. 1915.

Mr. Frederick H. Tidman,  
105 West 15th Street,  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Mr. Tidman:

I have received your favor of the 22nd instant, and  
~~we are~~ <sup>we</sup> will be glad to learn that our factory is in full  
blast, and we are turning out lots of goods. We started manu-  
facturing twenty-two days after the fire.

John Ott is still with H. C. and is working now at  
the Laboratory. Any letter we addressed will reach him.

Yours very truly,

Direct  
340

Mar. 3rd. 1915.

F. B. Shaw, Esq..

Williamsport, Pa.

Dear Shaw:

Would you consider a proposition for you to raise twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars to erect a small chemical plant to make Aniline oil and one or two other chemicals allied thereto and made therefrom. The demand for these Basic color Chemicals is enormous and the prices are from three to four times normal. These prices will certainly not diminish during the war. After the war it will take at least eight months to a year to come back to normal and even then there is good profit. I will have an excess of Benzol and its the only free Benzol in the United States. The capital is first to be paid back from profits, and after that myself and capital own the plant and split even on profit. I will furnish Benzol from my plant and that from the plant I have option on at ten (10) cents per gallon above cost to me, at Orange.

I think can get money back in ninety days.

Yours very truly,

  
F. B. Shaw

Mar. 3rd. 1915.

I propose making from Benzol the following:

Nitrobenzol-	Cost 18 cents-	Don't know selling price-Used for Aniline.
Aniline-	" 25 "	Sells for 60 cen'
Acetanilid-	" 32 "	" " 50 "
Nitroacetanilid-	" 37 "	" " (Don't
Paraphenylenediamine-	" \$1.05	" " \$2.00
(Perhaps) Diphenylamine-	" 35 "	" " 53 cen

*Thos. E. Chas.*

*L.H.H.*  
*bEE*

170  
574

Mar. 2nd. 1915.

Mr. G. L. Babson,  
473 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

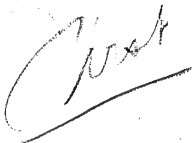
Dear Mr. Babson:

Mr. Wilson handed me your favor of the 24th ultimo enclosing a report made by your salesman as to the requests for records of different artists, including many of the Victor list.

I am glad to see this report and to have the information, but it has very little significance so far as concerns New York, where everything is Victor. We now have forty-five recital men in New York City, working constantly, and get reports of all recitals and what the people say. By March 20th we will have caused 1,000,000 people in New York to have heard the Edison Phonograph.

Any person may hear Victor artists by buying an attachment, but they don't seem to hanker for these artists after they get the attachment.

Yours very truly,



Mar. 2nd. 1915.

Mr. W. C. Fawcett,  
Salem, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 18th ultimo has been handed to me, and I note your desire to have one of our Demonstrators work in your town and vicinity.

For the present we can only use these demonstrators in the larger cities, but out of our 2300 discdealers, there are about 1150 who are giving recitals themselves on every opportunity they get, and they are certainly making a majority of the sales. This recital business seems to be the best kind of advertising.

Yours very truly,

*Wheat*

March 2nd, 1915.

Mr. H. S. Kennedy,  
1326 Patzall Street,  
Wilmington, Del.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 27th ultimo, and beg to say in reply that with our present factory method and printing it would be a matter of great difficulty to make the change you suggest.

It may interest you to learn that we have some of James Whitcomb Riley's poems recited by a professional. These have already been recorded, and we hope to issue them soon.

Let me suggest that you keep your eye open for our supplements of this record, as we have recently made some fine ones with splendid singers, and they will soon be issued.

Yours very truly,



*W. S. Gray*  
445

Mar. 4th. 1915.

Keith Car Company,  
122 South Michigan Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

Our friends Messrs. Wm. S. Gray and Company of New York have forwarded to me your favor to them of the first instant, stating that you had for lease eighty new 10,000 gallon tank cars of modern type, which will be ready for delivery within two weeks after order.

Possibly I may be interested in this proposition, as I have put up a Benzol Absorbing Plant at the Cambria Steel Company's works at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and expect to use tank cars for shipment of Benzol and Toluenol.

I shall be glad if you will kindly write me full particulars as to your terms of lease. Please bear in mind that I have never had occasion to go much in the way of leasing tank cars, so kindly post me fully.

Yours very truly,

87

Mar. 3rd. 1915.

Mr. Charles E. Spiers,  
D. Van Nostrand Company,  
25 Park Place,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Spiers:

A few days ago I received the presentation copy of Steadman's "Unit Photography", recently published by you, and I want to express my thanks for the same. I have looked over the book with a good deal of interest, and am having my experts examine it.

I wish you would please thank Mr. Steadman for his kind offer to come over and see me. I may avail myself of his courtesy later on after my expert makes a report to me.

Yours very truly,



Mar. 6th, 1915.

Mr. R. L. O'Donnell, Chairman, P.R.R.  
Executive Comm. of Associated R.R. of Penn. & N. J.  
221 Commercial Trust Building,  
PHILA., PA.

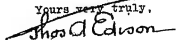
Dear Sir:

I received your favor of the 2nd instant and to be frank, this seems to me to be about the most impracticable proposal to get workmen to help defeat the law as could well be devised.

Why don't you put it in language that workmen could understand? Show that the added expenses to the railroad must come out of the people who work and that 95% of the people in the United States are working people. Show them that the law has proposed, would give an easy job for a lot of men who are entirely unnecessary and who don't like work and all this at the expense of those who must work without any special law or anything else to help them.

The workmen if they want to have this law changed can write to any member named in the book giving their opinion for or against the law and why.

Yours very truly,



32  
594

J. H. Plummer Esq.  
Hotel Chamberlin,  
Old Point Comfort,  
Virginia.

Mar. 6th, 1915.

My dear Mr. Plummer:

Answering your letter of the 5th instant. I would say that the plant will take care of about thirteen to fourteen million feet of gas. You can run more through but you will lose some benzol but get all the Toluol. The Benzol is the hardest to get out.

Your test shows that you only absorb two gallons from a ton of coal, whereas you should get two and one half gallons, and if your coal is as rich as you say it is it certainly will give that much. Lucas knows all about increasing the capacity of plant. It is easily done. Our Cambria plant is going well, making crude Benzol and Toluol. Next week when tanks are full we will start refining.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

W. H. Harrison



March 6th. 1915.

Mr. Edward R. Stettinius,  
J. P. Morgan & Company,  
23 Wall Street,  
New York City.

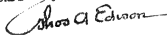
Dear Mr. Stettinius:

I am in receipt of your favor of the third instant, and beg to say in reply that my plant is now making crude Benzol and Toluol. I want to fill our large tanks before starting to refine. I believe I shall be able to refine the Toluol to meet the British Government's specifications.

I know it is needed, and will hurry as fast as possible.

Mr. Meadowcroft tells me that he extended an invitation to you in my name to drop over some day and see me. I take great pleasure in confirming that invitation personally to come and see me.

Yours very truly,



Thresh

March 8th. 1915.

J. P. Cross, Jr.,  
Everybody's Magazine,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Answering your letter of the  
fourth inst. Mr. Edison directs me to  
write you that he would be glad to meet  
Dr. Krishna. You had better telephone  
the writer before leaving for Orange to  
be sure Mr. Edison will be here. Our  
telephone number is 906 Orange.

Yours very truly,

*W. S. Miller*  
SECRETARY.

299  
443

March 10th. 1915.

Mr. E. H. Banister, Sec'y.,  
Woodward Iron Company,  
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Banister:

Mr. Meadowcroft has just returned full of enthusiasm about your unique and wonderful plant. He has given me the substance of his interview with you on Monday, and I feel encouraged to believe, from what he says, that we are going to make a deal together. My Benzol Plant at Cambria Steel Company is working splendidly, and we are getting lots of Benzol from it.

There is no reason why we can't soon be doing the same at Woodward, and also no reason why you can't also do it, because I am entirely willing to furnish you with all the plans and details for a plant for yourselves, as well as mine, if we make a deal.

It is quick money for us both if we jump in right now while the cream is on top, and you can always put in a permanent plant at a future time if you so desire.

Mr. Meadowcroft tells me that he has invited you to call in and see me at the Laboratory next time you are up North, and I cordially confirm that invitation. The latching hangs out for you.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

327

March 9th. 1915.

Mrs. Bleecker Bangs,  
400 Lafayette Avenue,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

Replying to yours of the 6th instant regarding food for people engaged in different occupations, I beg to state that human beings are all made on the same plan, in fact, we are engines or rather motors and all should have the same fuel, and the plainer it is the better. People eat entirely too much. When I was a telegraph operator I lived in hall bedrooms and did what I recommend the girls to do, cooked my own food.

If two girls resolved to spend for food one dollar each a week they could get along on that amount, but it requires study. Three and one-half pounds of food a week is all that is necessary and anything beyond that is eating simply because it tastes good. It greatly depends how the girls cook and serve the food to themselves. It must be neatly done and in style, even when they are alone. They should save on food, take the daily paper, go to a movie now and then, and spend the balance on clothes and remember that three-quarters of all the people in Belgium would be happy to exchange places with them.

Yours very truly,





March 9th. 1915.

Mr. Clinton Biddle,  
Ohio University,  
Athens, O.

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of the fifth instant, I beg to state that I never made statements that our Navy was inefficient. I stated that there wasn't enough of it.

We are a rich people, one hundred million strong and we know now that there are burglars about.

Yours very truly,



March 9th. 1915.

Mr. Emory H. Chase,  
Pawhuska, Okla.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the fourth instant regarding an article in the Pathfinder of Washington, D. C., I beg to say that you have entirely misunderstood my interviews. What I mean by business men are those who are legitimate merchants, and the men who build new factories and push things and give employment to others, but who borrow the money from Capitalists. Laws have greatly hampered these men and they have truly lost their nerve. They should be given a free hand to go ahead, applying the law only to those who by manipulations obtain that which they are not entitled to.

You say I have twenty millions. How could a man like myself have that much money. I have works that are worth two and one-half million dollars, the accumulation of forty-five years. I give employment to four thousand men and am the hardest worker in the bunch. I get nothing more out of it than they do and there are thousands like me and we are hampered continuously by laws which are meant for the crooks and not for us.

Yours very truly,

430  
448

March 11th. 1916.

Mr. R. H. Banister,  
Secretary, Woodward Iron Co.,  
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Banister:

I have received your favor of the 9th inst. the contents of which have had my attention. I will comment on your points in the order in which they come.

1. As to the water, I have already wired you that I think the 500,000 gallons of cold water a day from the mine will be sufficient to take care of my plant and yours also if you decide to use my plans and put one in.

2. I am quite willing to have the contract read I shall pay you 14 cents a gallon for "all pure Benzol and toluol absorbed and refined at said plant". This will leave the shipping to me.

3. In reference to the word "pure" as regards benzol and toluol, I use that word in the commercial sense. I do not mean the crude. This must be distilled and treated with sulphuric acid to take out paraaffines and other hydrocarbons in order to get "pure" benzol.

4. As to the last paragraph of my proposition of March 6th, providing for an option to purchase from you as stated therein, this simply means that if you should sell any, I want the option of purchasing the quantity mentioned at the market price.

I think this disposes of all the questions, and feel sure you will be relieved about the matter of the water after getting my telegram. If you wire the agreement as per changes indicated and telegraph me that it has been mailed as suggested by Mr. Headworoff, I will at once place an order the equipment.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*Wrote*

March 11th. 1915.

Mr. F. N. Brady,  
54 Wall Street,  
New York City.  
Friend Brady:

Glad you will come in with me, we will help a good many people out of a serious condition, and at the same time be well rewarded. My proposition is to go right ahead and quickly put together a plant to manufacture Aniline, Nitrobenzol, Diphenylamine and Acetanilid. All these are made from Benzol, which I now can get.

I think \$35,000 will cover the plant I propose putting in. If you will place the money to my credit, I will give orders for machinery etc.. When bills come in I will draw check, send it over to Murray to countersign and pay it.

You are to be paid all the profits until you have received all your money back, then we own the plant jointly and split the profits. If this is O. K., telephone to me through Meadowcroft.

Yours very truly,

*W. A. R. E. M.*

401  
516

March 11th. 1915.

Keith Car Company,  
Peoples Gas Building,  
122 South Michigan Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 8th instant, and also your telegram, for which please accept my thanks. I have carefully noted the explanation that you have given me, and thank you for being so explicit.

I wish to place my order with you for two - ten thousand gallon tank cars, to be leased to me for one year at twenty-five dollars (\$25) per car per month, provided that you can furnish cars which will carry bensol, toluol, xylol and solvent naphthas without leaking.

From a careful reading of your letter, I judge that it will be advisable to have these cars bear the name "Keith Tank Line", and carry your numbers. Of course, I should prefer to have you attend to the collection of the mileage from the railroad company, as you are entirely familiar with the methods of attending to this part of the business.

Please forward the cars to Thomas A. Edison, % Cambria Steel Company, Johnstown, Pa. I understand that you will deliver the cars at Johnstown free and accept them back their on the termination of the lease.

Prompt shipment is very desirable, as my Bensol is accumulating very fast.

Yours very truly,

L. A. C.

265

March 11th. 1915.

Mr. William E. McKay, V. Pres.,  
The New England Gas and Coke Co.,  
111 Devonshire Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 10th instant, and would say in reply that it is true I have completed my Benzol Plant at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and that the cost was with three or four thousand dollars of the figure you name. Instead of taking sixty days, however, the plant was finished in thirty working days after breaking ground.

You are quite at liberty to visit my Benzol Plant if you wish, when you go to Johnstown.

Yours very truly,

*W. E. McKay*

443  
501

March 12th. 1915.

Mr. R. H. Banister,  
Secretary, Woodward Iron Co.,  
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Banister:

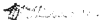
I am sending you down by this mail a few pictures showing our Benzol Plant at the Cambria Steel Company, Johnstown, Pa. These are later than the ones I showed you on Monday, as they have been taken since the plant was in operation. When you realize that all this was done in twenty-nine working days from the time of breaking ground, I think you will appreciate that we don't let the grass grow under our feet.

I told Mr. Edison about your great plant down there, and he was very much interested. He has written you several letters, and I trust that everything is now in good order for your discussion with Mr. Woodward on Monday.

I am still full of pleasant recollections of my flying trip and your kind reception.

With cordial regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,



Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*Throck*

March 13th. 1916.

Mr. J. R. Pitman, V. Pres. & Gen'l Mgr.,  
Duriron Castings Company,  
90 West Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I beg to thank you for your favor of the 12th instant  
written to Mr. Meadowcroft.

Will you kindly call Mr. Meadowcroft up on the tele-  
phone Monday and advise as to the following:

If I send you a pattern for a pot about fourteen in-  
ches wide and fourteen inches deep, as per enclosed rough sketch,  
how soon could you cast one so that I could try an experiment  
under 75 pounds pressure.

Can Duriron be machined readily?

Yours very truly,  
*Throck*



*Throst*

March 13th. 1915.

Mr. S. Takaki, Asst. Mgr.,  
Mitsui & Company, Ltd.,  
25 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I have received your favor of the 12th instant in regard to the Dyphenylamine, and will say in reply that it is impossible at this moment to state any time for delivery because both Dupont and the General Chemical Company are having an awful time with their porcelain lined pots, as the only makers in this country are not making them as good as they once did. Seemingly, they have lost the art.

I am trying to avoid the use of porcelain lined pots. These pots are under 75 pounds steam pressure. The enamel soon cracks and the hot acid vapors go into the cracks and the porcelain comes off, which ends the pot.

Yours very truly,

*J. H. ...*

435

March 15th, 1915.

Halland Brothers,  
46 Coal & Iron Exchange,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

Gentleman:

I enclose herewith proposed agreement with Hayden Chemical Company for one hundred (100) pounds of Carboric Acid per day until July 1st, 1915 at eighty-five (85) cents per pound. If this sale is consummated with the Hayden Chemical Company, I will pay you five (5) cents per pound on each pound of Carboric Acid furnished to that Company at the above price up to July 1st, 1915.

Yours very truly,

Thomas A. Edison

*W. H. H. H.*  
*538*

March 15th, 1915.

Citizens Gas Company,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Gentleman:

Do you fire your retorts with gas? If so, would you entertain a proposition from me to put in a small Benzol Absorbing Plant to absorb the Benzol from the gas you use for this purpose. I would make all the investment and pay you at a reasonable rate for the Benzol absorbed.

Awaiting the favor of your early reply, I remain,

Yours very truly

*W. H. H. H.*  
W. H. H. H.

*Tiroh*  
531

March 15th. 1915.

Hamilton-Otto Coke Co.,

Hamilton, O.

Gentlemen:

Do you fire your retorts with gas? If so, would you entertain a proposition from me to put in a small Benzol Absorbing Plant to absorb the Benzol from the gas you use for this purpose. I would make all the investment and pay you at a reasonable rate for the Benzol absorbed.

Awaiting the favor of your early reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*

*Trust*  
*523*

March 15th. 1915.

Philadelphia Suburban Gas & Electric Co.,

Chester, Pa.

Gentlemen:

Do you fire your retorts with gas? If so, would you entertain a proposition from me to put in a small Benzol Absorbing Plant to absorb the Benzol from the gas you use for this purpose. I would make all the investment and pay you at a reasonable rate for the Benzol absorbed.

Awaiting the favor of your early reply, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*



March 15th. 1915.

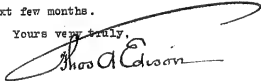
Mr. W. R. Walker,  
% United States Steel Corporation,  
Room 1605,  
71 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Referring to my telephone inquiry this afternoon through Mr. Meadowcroft, I note that you expect to be ready to supply Benzol about August 1st. You will remember that Judge Gary said that I was to have the first opportunity of having my Benzol requirements filled by your Company when you start your plant.

I cannot say at this moment just what my requirements will be in August, but will probably be able to tell later. I am getting a regular output from my plant at the Cambria Steel Company, but it looks just now as though I would require a great deal more than that within the next few months.

Yours very truly,



*Throst*

March 16th. 1915.

Finner-Mendelson,

90 West Street,

New York City.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th instant in regard to Carbolic Acid.

We are selling some of our Carbolic now to help out several Chemical Works, but just at this moment are cleaned out and have none to spare. Any surplus we may have is sold to the explosive people at high prices. In about six weeks I shall have extended my plant, and then will have more to sell.

Yours very truly,

*Thos A Edison*



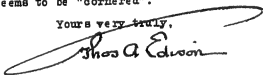
March 16th. 1915.

Mr. F. D. Feldman,  
Berlin Chemical Laboratories, Inc.,  
1402 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of the 15th instant, I  
beg to say that I shall be unable to quote you on Ben-  
zol, as I have none to spare, and do not know where you  
can get it. It seems to be "cornered".

Yours very truly,







March 16th. 1915.

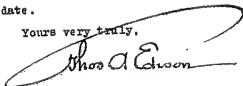
Mr. P. F. Morgan,  
561 West 186th St.,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I find on looking over the reports that your salary and expenses for February amount to \$697. This is so excessive that I shall have to quit on making these upstate recitals by you and do it some other way.

I am doing the same kind of work in a number of cities for one-third the cost, so I will give it up in your case on April first. You may therefore make your arrangements to close up your recitals on that date.

Yours very truly,



Theodore A. Edison

448  
503

March 18th. 1915.

Mr. R. H. Banister, Sec'y.,  
Woodward Iron Company,  
Woodward, Ala.

Dear Mr. Banister:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 15th instant enclosing contract between your company and myself in regard to the Benzol Absorbing Plant to be erected at your coke ovens, and thank you for your prompt attention. I have signed the duplicate copy of the contract, and return the same to you enclosed herewith.

I reciprocate the expression of sentiment that this may be the beginning of a prolonged and agreeable business experience between us. You will be glad to learn that I commenced ordering the materials immediately upon receipt of your telegram last Monday, and that everything is being rushed forward as fast as possible.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

P.S. You should tell your chemist that  
he should get his gas as pure as  
possible of Ammonia, so it is  
combination with Sulphur corrects our  
iron piping —

Alfred A. Edison

*Recd*

March 19th. 1915.

The Bayer Company, Inc.,  
117 Hudson Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 18th instant, and beg to say in reply that I have entered your order for one drum of about 925 pounds Carbolio Acid, pure, melting point between 40 and 41, such as we are delivering to the Heyden Chemical Works, at eighty-five (85) cents per pound, F. O. B. at Silver Lake, N. J., drums returnable against full credit for charge made. Payment ten days less one percent (1%).

I will have a drum shipped to you either to-morrow or Monday, and will try to furnish you with a drum occasionally, so far as I can spare it.

I have just started today to build a plant for making Aniline oil and Nitrobenzol, and hope to be ready for operation in about forty days. If you will kindly write me again near that time, I will see what I can do toward furnishing you with a supply of these materials.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

March 19th, 1916.

Mr. Stanley Doggett,  
11-13 Cliff Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Referring to our interview this morning in regard to furnishing you with Aniline oil, allow me to repeat as a matter of record what I then told you.

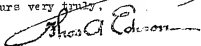
I have erected a Benzol Absorbing Plant at Johnstown, Pa. from which I am obtaining Benzol. A similar plant is being erected by the Dominion Iron & Steel Company at its Coke ovens, Sydney, Nova Scotia under my engineering plans. I am entitled to receive a certain amount of Benzol from this plant when it goes into operation, which is expected in about thirty days from this time. I am erecting a similar Benzol Absorbing plant at the Coke ovens of the Woodward Iron Company at Woodward, Alabama, and expect to have this plant in operation within sixty days.

I am starting the erection today of a plant for making Aniline oil from the Benzol which I expect to obtain from the above named plants. I expect to have this aniline Plant in operation in about forty days from now. I am proceeding with the utmost dispatch to carry out all these plans in good faith, and unless unforeseen accidents or occurrences take place I shall be in position to make good on the following proposition:

I will agree to furnish you with Aniline oil to the extent of seventy-five (75) tons at seventy (70) cents per pound F. O. B. Silver Lake, N. J., deliveries to be made weekly or otherwise as hereafter arranged between us, and payment to be made for each shipment on presentation of Bill of Lading. The duration of this contract to be during the present war, but in no event for more than one year from this date.

I make this offer of sale only on condition that I shall not be held liable for damages for the non-fulfilment of my part of the contract if such non-fulfilment is caused by fires, explosions, strikes, the acts of God, or any unforeseen manufacturing contingencies. In other words, if we close this contract between us I shall honestly and in good faith endeavor to live up to my part of it strictly but must be allowed to provide against liability for unforeseen contingencies not within my control. This offer will be held open one week from date.

Yours very truly,



*Proof*

March 18th. 1915.

Cumaron Company,  
47 Fulton Street,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the 15th instant, let me say that I get my Benzol by absorbing it from the gas from Coke ovens. I get Benzol, Toluol, Xylol, Meslylenes and other high boiling point Benzoid hydrocarbons, but do not think that I get Cumaron. I think that Cumaron will only be found in the coal tar. I will be glad to have you send me a sample.

Yours very truly,

1161

March 18th. 1915.

Philadelphia Suburban Gas & Electric Co.,  
Chester, Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

Replying to the favor of your Mr. J. D. Shattuck under date of the 16th instant, let me say that I have distilling facilities and would be willing to buy the compressor oils, paying for their actual Benzol and Toluol contents, if you are prepared to accept a reasonable price. Will you let me know the price you would expect to obtain?

Yours very truly,

459

March 19th. 1915.

The Hamilton-Otto Coks Co.,  
Hamilton, Ohio.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 17th instant, and would say in reply that the size of your plant would not warrant the erection of a complete plant to make 90% Benzol. What I propose is to erect a plant at my own expense to absorb and make a 50% crude Benzol and ship it to a refining point, paying you for the Benzol, Toluol, and Solvent Naphthas obtained from it.

I have a complete plant at the Cambria Steel Company and am installing similar ones at Woodward, Alabama and at the Dominion Steel Works, Sydney, Nova Scotia. I make three year contracts, ~~one~~ year firm, with the right to abandon after one year, giving you the option to buy the plant at two-thirds its original cost. I pay fourteen (14) cents per gallon for all the pure Benzol and pure Toluol, and ten (10) cents per gallon for the Solvent Naphthas. If anything is done, it would have to be done right away in order to make it profitable.

Will you kindly answer the following inquiries:

1. What is the quantity of Volatile gas in your coal?
2. What quantity of coal do you coke daily?
3. Have you determined the amount of Benzol in the gas which you use in heating your retorts?
4. Is the gas you burn in your retorts nearly free of Ammoniac?
5. Have you plenty of water?
6. What will be the temperature of the water in summer?
7. Can you sell me steam for heating?
8. Have you electric power?

Yours very truly,

*Edmond E. Egan*

458

March 20th. 1915.

Citizens Gas Company of Indianapolis,  
 Majestic Building,  
 Indianapolis, Ind.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 18th instant and would say in reply that my plan is to erect the plant at my own expense and pay for the Benzol, Tolnol and Solvent Naphthas as shipped. Contract to be for three years, one year firm, with the privilege of abandoning operation and removing the plant. If I abandon it you would have the option to purchase the plant at two-thirds its actual cost.

If I made an arrangement with you I would ask you to rent — ground at a nominal rental for the contract period, you also to connect your gas main to our main, to keep your gas low in Ammonia and sell us steam at prevailing price, and you to furnish Water.

If there is not enough gas it would not pay us to put in a full plant but only one that would make low grade Benzol to be shipped to another plant for refining. I pay fourteen (14) cents per gallon for the Benzol and Tolnol content, and ten (10) cents per gallon for Solvent Naphthas.

The plant can be erected quickly, the time required being about fifty (50) working days. My plant does not prevent you from figuring on a permanent plant, and gives you plenty of time to erect it, although I think you would probably be satisfied with the plant I propose.

Will you kindly favor me with information on the following points.

1. What is the Volatility of your coal?
2. How much coal do you coke in each plant?
3. Have you plenty of water?
4. What is the lowest summer temperature of the water?

I shall await your reply with much interest.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. A. C. ...*



*First*  
*541*

March 20th. 1915.

Mitsui & Company,  
25 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

In confirmation of the telephone conversation between your Mr. Takaki and Mr. Meadowcroft this day, I beg to say that you should observe the following in making contract for the Toluol from the Woodward, Alabama Plant.

1. It is expected that the plant will be put in operation in about sixty days.
2. The Toluol will be equal in quality to the specifications of the British Government.
3. As to quantity, it is impossible to guarantee any particular quantity from this plant. If you make a single contract, you can make it to read that we will supply all the Toluol obtained by us from our Benzol and Absorbing Plant at Woodward, Ala.

Yours very truly,

*Moore Edson*

First

March 10th. 1915.

654

Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter,  
100 William Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 17th instant and also copy of last Monday's issue of Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter, on Benzol articles which I have found interesting.

The "efforts" of the Steel Companies to get Benzol makes me smile. Months ago I offered to put in plants at my own expense. I had their experts here, and they delayed, delayed, and delayed, except the Cambria Steel Company, the Dominion Iron & Steel Company, and the Woodward Iron Company.

The other Companies will now start and in some distant future we will have plenty of Benzol when the United States is no longer in great distress.

This letter is not for publication.

Yours very truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely "J. West", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom of the main body of the signature.

March 20, 1915.

Mr. Roscoe B. Smith,  
Edison Portland Cement Company,  
Stewartsville, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the  
12th instant, I have been unable to find an  
opening for you here.

The fire upset things and we  
haven't gone back to our office building yet.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

Dist

March 22nd. 1915.

Mr. Edward B. Lyman, Publicity Manager,  
Belgium Relief Fund,  
10 Bridge Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 6th instant to Mr. Edison was received. He has been so overwhelmingly busy that his correspondence is very badly in arrears.

It is simply impossible for him at this time to divert his attention from the vast number of important matters upon which he is engaged, and he wishes us to say to you that he must be excused from complying with your request on account of being already overworked.

Yours very truly,  
Edison Laboratory.

*Trust*

March 22nd. 1915.

Mr. John S. Phillips,  
The American Magazine,  
391 Fourth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Phillips:

I must ask you to kindly pardon the long delay in replying to your favor of the 10th instant. I suppose Mr. Nook has told you what he saw and heard around here a few days ago, and will verify my statement that I have been "snowed under".

I shall be very glad to have Mr. Lindsay go to our Recording Rooms at 79 Fifth Avenue, and make a trial record, as I understand that is what he desires. Am I right about this or does he wish to have the record made for himself? If so, it is quite an expensive matter.

If he simply wishes to have us take a trial record, so as to ascertain whether we could place such records on our list, that is another matter. I shall await your favor on this subject.

It is very kind of you to extend such a cordial invitation to lunch with you, and it would give me real pleasure to be able to name an early date. At the present status of affairs, however, I am about as far from New York as from the middle of Africa. However, I may surprise you some day, but of course would give you fair warning by telephone.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours very truly,

March 23rd. 1915.

Mr. D. H. Banister, Sec'y.,  
Woodward Iron Company,  
Woodward, Ala.

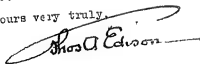
Dear Mr. Banister:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, asking to have our Engineering Department send blue prints showing foundation plans. Mr. Meadcroft telegraphed you yesterday that my Engineer, Mr. Mason, would be with you by the middle of the week and he will put you in possession of all this information and go over the situation with your Chief Engineer.

I am very glad to learn that you have requested the Superintendent of your by-product coke oven department to keep the gas as free as possible from Ammonia. This is quite important for both of us, as Mr. Mason will undoubtedly explain.

There is no objection, so far as I am concerned, in informing inquirers as to whom you have entered into contract concerning the Benzol Plant.

Yours very truly,

 Thomas A. Edison

Re: Mr. Jones

March 22nd. 1915.

Blake & Burkart,  
Walnut at Eleventh Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the 18th instant, in regard to the sound box invented by Dr. Alva D. Jones.

Let me say for your information that for several years past there has probably never been a week but what we have received letters from inventors about reproducers superior to our own. For a long time we made tests of these various reproducers, but never did we find one that was superior to ours, so we quit.

Experimentors and dealers do not seem to understand that it is a comparatively easy matter to make a reproducer nearly as good, - or sometimes better, - than our standard, but it is the most difficult thing in the world to make one that will reproduce all tones, vocal and instrumental.

You will notice that our explanatory talk records are somewhat muffled. The reproducer that would stop this muffling would drop from two to four overtones in certain vocal tones, and thus spoil the sweetness of the music.

I could write scores of pages of explanation, but this subject is very much more complicated than one would think.

Yours very truly,

342

March 22nd. 1915.

Mr. C. S. Babson,  
473 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Babson:

Your favor of the 17th instant to Mr. Wilson enclosing some statistical information obtained from letters and cards sent out to your retail customers has been handed to me and read with a good deal of interest.

As this experiment seems to show that I get little value from the forty-five men I use in New York, I will withdraw them at once and send them to other points where the dealers report the quadrupling of sales from their efforts. New York seems to be abnormal.

Yours very truly,





March 22nd. 1915.

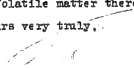
Mr. J. D. Frost, Sec'y. & Genl. Mgr.,  
Citizens Gas Company of Indianapolis,  
Majestic Building,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th instant,  
and have read its contents with much interest.

There is ~~one more~~ question that I would like to ask  
you, and that is: How much Volatile matter there is in your coal?

Yours very truly,



First

666

March 22nd, 1915.

A. Hoenigsberger,  
12 So. Market Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 16th instant and beg to say that I am making Ursol for my own use. This is a trade name. The proper name is "Paraphenylenediamine". I make only enough for my own use for phonograph records, but in a month or six weeks from now I will have my apparatus ready for increasing the output, and will then be able to offer some for sale.

If you are still in the market then, you may communicate with me if you wish.

Yours very truly,

*First*

March 22nd, 1915.

C. W. Leavitt & Company,  
Cortlandt Building,  
30 Church Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Your favor of the 17th instant has been forwarded  
to me.

Let me say in reply that the total amount of Toluol  
produced daily in the United States does not exceed eight tons,  
and so far as I know every gallon has been already sold, either  
in liquid form or Trinitrotoluol to various governments.

Yours very truly,  
*al*

542  
592

March 22nd, 1915.

Mitsui & Company, Ltd.,  
Metal Department,  
25 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th instant in regard to Tungsten Ore, and beg to say that I am not interested in this product, as I do not use it in any of my work.

Mr. Meadowcroft has already referred your Mr. Takaki to the Edison Lamp Works of the General Electric Company at Harrison, N. J. on this subject. I would say for your information that several of the large steel companies are also interested in this product.

Yours very truly,

5741  
662

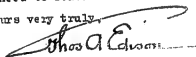
March 23rd. 1915.

Mitsui & Company, Ltd.,  
25 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favor of the 22nd instant, signed by your Mr. Takaki, I beg to say that it will be quite agreeable to me if you make your contract to sell your Toluol subject to Barrett's specification, which calls for boiling point 110 to 112°C., on specific gravity, 0.869 to 0.871 at 15 degrees C. As a matter of fact, I think that our Toluol will be a little better, but there is no need to state that in the contract.

Yours very truly,



First

March 23rd. 1915.

J. P. Morgan & Company,  
Export Department,  
23 Wall Street,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant, giving me directions concerning the inspection of Toluol which I am to furnish to His Britannic Majesty's Government. Your remarks are noted, and will be carefully complied with.

Yours very truly

Shas A Edison

First

March 23rd, 1915.

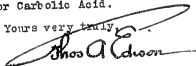
Louis Delage & Pottier,  
14 & 16, Rue des Rosiers,  
Paris, France.

Gentlemen:

I have received your favor of the second instant, and beg to say in reply that I am still continuing to manufacture Carbolic Acid, and am the only person who makes it in this country.

If the French Government desires to obtain Carbolic Acid, let them work through their Minister in the United States of America and deal with me direct. At present they are trying to negotiate through a lot of brokers and speculators, which is very unsatisfactory, and results in an exorbitant price being asked from the French Government for Carbolic Acid.

Yours very truly,

J. H. Johnson

Trust

March 24th. 1915.

Mr. Herbert Lewis,  
52 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favor of the 23rd instant, advising me that you are expecting to return to England next week. I am very sorry that I have been unable to give myself the pleasure of calling upon you in accordance with your very cordial invitation. I assure you it would have been a real pleasure to me, but I shall hope that when you return to America the stress of business will not be quite so great as it is now and that I may be able to meet you again.

In regard to the first delivery of Toluol, I can only say that we expect to make it early in April. Our Benzol Plant is all right but we ran up against an unforeseen difficulty on account of the gas not being entirely clean. We were obliged to renew one part, which is now being expedited, and will be put in place within a few days. We are having the work done by five shops so as to hurry it along. We have some material on hand, and shall refine it as soon as the plant starts up.

With kindest regards and wishing you a safe and pleasant voyage, I remain,

Yours very truly,



First

March 24, 1915.

Reade & Company,  
346 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

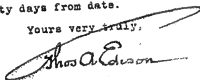
Gentlemen:

Replying to your letter of the 13th instant  
I would say that I will sell the property situate  
No. 10 Fifth Avenue, New York City for \$114,000.00,  
one hundred fourteen thousand dollars.

Cash \$64,000.00. You to assume a mortgage  
for \$50,000.00 at  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent.

Offer open for sixty days from date.

Yours very truly,

 Thomas A. Edison

619

*First*

March 25th. 1915.

Mr. Miller, 2000 W. St.,  
Akron, Ohio.

Sir:

In accordance with the correspondence and telegrams which have passed between us, I beg to confirm my sale to you of thirty-six thousand (36,000) pounds of Aniline Oil, the same to be delivered and accepted by you at the rate of three thousand (3,000) pounds per month for one year from the time of my commencing to make deliveries. I expect to commence making these deliveries when my Aniline Plant is put in operation, which I expect will be in about forty (40) days. You are to pay me for said Aniline Oil at the rate of seventy (70) cents per pound, net, payments to be made on sight draft attached to Bill of Lading. Drums to be charged for extra, and credited when returned. The price is F. O. B. Silver Lake, N. J.

I shall make every endeavor in good faith to fulfill my part of this contract, but am not to be held liable for damages because of any non-fulfillment thereof caused through fire, explosions, strikes, or the acts of God, or unforeseen manufacturing contingencies.

I enclose duplicate of this letter. If the above is agreeable to you, please write your acceptance at the foot of one of the copies and return it to me.

Yours very truly,

*[Signature]*

Accepted

First

March 25th, 1915.

Barrett Manufacturing Co.,

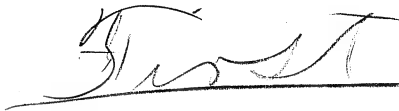
Frankford,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

Referring to the telephone conversation between your Mr. Jayne and Mr. Meadowcroft this morning, let me say that I will state my requirements when the U. S. Steel Corporation is ready to deliver the pure Pensol.

Yours very truly,



March 26th. 1915.

Mr. Charles S. Palmer,  
23 Park Place,  
Newtonville, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 20th instant, which has been read with considerable interest.

Let me say in reply that I always go it alone, so far as the Alkaline Storage Battery is concerned. I think the possibilities are very considerable. I keep constantly experimenting, and am giving nature every chance to speak. The battery has not yet been able to reach any great commercial success, financially, on account of the high price.

Why don't you go into the dye chemistry? The field is immense, and I am in it with both feet.

Yours very truly,

Copied by Rudolph 640

First

June 1st, 1915.

641

National Electrolytic Co.,  
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

The Dominion Iron & Steel Company, Sydney, Nova Scotia is installing at its Coke ovens a Benzol Absorbing and Refining Plant, according to my plans. This plant is now under construction and will probably go into operation in about forty (40) days. Under my contract with them I am entitled to purchase eight hundred (800) gallons of pure Benzol daily.

You desire me to furnish you with a continuous supply of pure Phenol, deliveries to commence on or before June first, 1915, and to continue until December first, 1915, at the rate of approximately four thousand (4,000) pounds per day, more or less. If I can procure sufficient additional Benzol to increase my output correspondingly I am to deliver, and you to receive, five thousand (5,000) pounds of Phenol, more or less, per day. Drums to be furnished by you, or if furnished by me to be charged to you subject to credit on return.

I agree to utilize the above mentioned supply of eight hundred (800) gallons of Benzol, and any further supply that I can obtain at reasonable prices, to make this Phenol, and to furnish such Phenol to you for the period and at the rate above mentioned at a price of seventy-two and six-tenths cents (72.6 cents) per pound, spot cash, payable on the draft attached to the Bill of Lading presented to be shipped by you.

As an additional consideration for the above mentioned Phenol, you agree to pay me with the first draft the sum of \$88,000.00, and to make the necessary arrangements to enable me to make the necessary plant to make the necessary plant. I am to deliver to you about forty (40) drums of Phenol, more or less, per day at all times.

It is understood that I shall not be liable for damages for the non-fulfillment of my part of this contract if such non-fulfillment is caused by fires, explosions, strikes, the acts of God, or any unforeseen manufacturing contingencies, without my control. In other words, I shall honestly and in good faith endeavor to live up to my part of this contract strictly, but must be allowed to pro-

Page two.

vide against liability for unforeseen contingencies not within my control.

If at any time during the continuance of this agreement you fail to take and pay for the Carbolio Acid for a period of one month, this contract shall be null and void, and I shall be free to sell the whole output of the Carbolio Plant to others without any accountability to you, nevertheless, you shall be held liable for the fulfillment of the contract on your part. If at the termination of this contract (December 31st, 1915) I decide to continue the operation of said Phenol Plant, you shall have the option of purchasing one-half (1/2) the future production of Phenol by said plant, until June 1st, 1916, at the same price, namely, seventy-two and six tenths cents (72.6 cents) per pound and on the same terms as above mentioned.

This agreement is not transferrable, and if not definitely closed by delivering to me a certified check for said fifty-two thousand dollars (\$52,000) by noon March 30th, 1916, all the above will become null and void.

Yours very truly,

*Shoacison*

Accepted.

First

March 26th. 1915.

The H. B. Chalmers Company,  
Schenectady, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

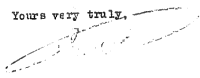
I am in receipt of your favor of the 25th instant, and in reply beg to say that the capacity of my present Carbolic Acid Plant is four thousand (4,000) pounds per day, and I use all this myself, except six hundred forty (640) pounds a day to the United States Government and a small quantity to four chemical works which I let them have to help them out.

I am putting up a much larger plant which will probably be running in forty-five (45) days. This plant will be used to make Carbolic for another concern who have the Benzol, but who expect to have an excess capacity of about eight hundred (800) pounds daily, which is free. If I can get the Benzol I could help you out.

My price is seventy-two and six-tenths cents (72.6 - cents) per pound F. O. B. Orange on the basis of Benzol at forty (40) cents. If I had to pay ninety (90) cents for Benzol it would add seven (7) cents to the Carbolic per pound. I shall make every effort to get the Benzol.

Can you not use light Solvent Naphtha? Your 90% Benzol consists of 72% Benzol, 20% Toluol and the remainder Xylol or light Solvent Naphtha. I think you could buy Solvent Naphtha for thirty (30) cents a gallon, but if not perhaps I could let you have some in thirty (30) days.

Yours very truly,



*First*  
*6 4/7*

March 27th. 1915.

Mr. Henry Doherty,  
 60 Wall Street,  
 New York City.

Dear Mr. Doherty:

I have received your kind favor of the 26th instant, and wish to thank you for writing me so fully. I am quite astonished at your mastery of the details of the gas business.

I already have a Benzol Absorbing Plant at the Cambria Steel Company's by-product Coke ovens at Johnstown, Pa. Another one is being erected at Woodward, Alabama, and another at the Dominion Steel Company, Sydney, Nova Scotia. The Finch people have contracted all their drip oil to others, and there is a great shortage of Benzol.

I have a plant now in operation making pure Carbolio Acid synthetically, - the only plant of the kind in the country. I use large quantities of Carbolio in making my phonograph records. I was driven into it on account of the embargo due to the war. Now I am helping out our own Government and numerous chemical works, hospitals, etc., with Carbolio.

The Coal Tar Products Company, composed of the General Chemical Company, the Somet-Solvay Company (of which Blauvelt is Engineer) and the Barrett Manufacturing Company, is closing all sources of supply to me outside of my plants. That is the reason that I am now after all sources of free Benzol.

I find that all the Gas Companies save their oil which settles out from the Gasometer and mains, and sell it. Insull has contracted all of his to the above combination, and so has J. H. White & Company. However, I have succeeded in getting about thirty thousand (30,000) gallons from some of the smaller gas Companies. The usual price is ten (10) cents per gallon, and ordinarily it contains from 15 to 25% of Benzol, the balance being petroleum hydrocarbons. Generally speaking, one gallon of drip oil is obtained for about every eighty-four thousand (84,000) feet of gas made.

I know Blauvelt very well, and he has helped me a great deal, but he is with the combination. If you can see your way clear to have your various Companies save all their drip oil, which I think does not require any investment, it would add to the total of Benzol available, and if I don't get some of it others will.



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and help out. Many factories are closing on account of the lack of Benzol, directly and for dyes. I am going to make the latter very soon.

With kindest regards and many thanks for your interesting letter, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Thomas Edison

*First*

March 27th. 1915.

Mr. Henry Ford,  
Detroit, Mich.

My dear Mr. Ford:

My friend Mr. Arthur Williams of the New York Edison Company is the President of the American Museum of Safety, which has been doing ~~some~~ notably good work in connection with industrial safety and industrial diseases.

Mr. Williams has asked me to give a letter introducing Dr. William H. Tollman to you. He is the Director of the Museum, and has made a life long study of the subject above named. I am also quite well acquainted with Dr. Tollman personally and take pleasure in introducing him to you, and if it is entirely agreeable to you, I should be glad if you would extend to him the privilege of visiting your factories for the purpose of noting your industrial conditions in connection with his special studies of the subject.

Yours very truly,

*Thomas A. Edison*

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March 26th. 1915.

Miss L. L. Horse,  
57 West 57th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Madam:

Your favor of the 23rd instant has been received. In reply I beg to say that I heard your record last night. The voice is good, but I could not decide about whether or not the interpretation was up to our standard, and I therefore wrote our Recording Laboratory requesting them to ask you to sing "Ah! Mon Fils" with dramatic accent and to listen to the same selection as sung by Mae. Delna on our records. You have probably heard from Mr. Miller about this.

Yours very truly,

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674

March 27th. 1915.


J. H. Plummer, Esq. Pres.,  
Dominion Iron & Steel Co.,  
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Mr. Plummer:

Under the agreement between your Company and myself, I have the option of purchasing from you eight hundred (800) gallons per day of pure Benzol after your plant becomes operative.

In order that there shall be no misunderstanding, I am writing this letter to signify my intention to avail myself of this option, and I will therefore ask you to have my order entered for eight hundred (800) gallons of pure Benzol per day, deliveries to commence as soon as you commence to turn out pure Benzol. I will furnish my tank cars, which will have a capacity of ten thousand (10,000) gallons each.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Howard Edison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Original of the above letter was sent to you Dominion Iron & Steel Company, 112 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada, on March 22nd, 1915.

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March 29th. 1915.

Mitsui & Company,  
25 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Confirming the telephone conversation which Mr. Meadowcroft had with your Mr. Takaki this morning, I beg to say that you may enter my order for six hundred (600) gallons of "pure" Benzol per day, to be delivered in tank cars containing ten thousand (10,000) gallons more or less, F. O. B. Orange or Silver Lake, N.J., at sixty (60) cents per gallon. I agree to take the above quantity at the above price for a period of one year from the time when you commence filling the tank cars with Benzol from the absorbing plant at Woodward, Alabama.

Yours very truly,



*Trust*

March 29th. 1915.

Mr. C. L. Holman, Pres. & Gen'l. Mgr.,  
The Eschsché Gas Light Company,  
St. Louis, Mo.

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant, and in reply beg to say that my plants are for the absorption of the Benzol, Toluol and solvent Naphtha from Coke oven gas. I use absorbing oil just as other plants do. The only difference between my plants and the usual ones is that mine are designed to be constructed quickly and all unnecessary stuff is left out. Brick buildings, tile floors and brass railings are cut out. We use corrugated iron buildings instead.

A plant for absorbing two thousand (2,000) to twenty-five hundred (2500) gallons per day, with refining stills to re-fine crude to 90% Benzol, and refine this again to pure Benzol costs about forty-five to forty-eight thousand dollars (\$45,000 to \$48,000), including storage tanks and all. The cost of the plant, where crude only is made, is about twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars (\$25,000 to \$30,000). One of my plants requires about forty-five (45) working days to build. I have one already built and two others are now in process of construction. Practically, they are as permanent as any plant.

You may have anything I have and the use of my patterns if you will agree to sell me some Benzol at a reasonable price.

Yours very truly,

653

March 29th, 1915.

Dear Mr. Plummer:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 25th instant, in regard to a proposed Bensol Plant at Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, and in reply beg to say that you can have all my <sup>use of patterns</sup> plans, and I will give you all the assistance I can. I will charge no royalty in this case. All I ask is that you will let me have some Bensol at a reasonable price. I have telegraphed you to this effect.

If the Sault Ste Marie plant is not cooking much coal I think it would be better if you only made the crude, or 50%. The plant will be cheap. I find that my Cambria Plant costs considerably less than I estimated, which is a very agreeable state of affairs.

Yours very truly,

J. H. Plummer, Eng. Pres.,  
Dominion Iron & Steel Co.,  
Toronto, Ontario, Can.

First

March 26th. 1915.

Mr. A. T. Richmond,  
J. O'Shea-Hinch Hardware Co.,  
924 Garrison Avenue,  
Fort Smith, Ark.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 22nd instant, which has been read with much interest. I am always glad to receive suggestions, especially when they are practical and intelligent.

Let me say for your information that we have a great deal of trouble to get singers to enunciate clearly. If this matter is brought to their attention they say that if they enunciate clearly it spoils the beauty of the tone, but we know better as most of our records are clear. At least 80% of the artists we try are rejected for poor enunciation, 40% for poor interpretation of the songs and many of them have various other defects.

Very few of the Grand Opera artists have good voices. Their reputation is due to pleasing personality or superior acting. I have refused to record artists of this kind, although my competitors do so for advertising purposes.

I shall record all of the old heart songs as fast as we can get them well sung. I hope before the end of the year to have my special building finished wherein I will try the recording of all of Beethoven's Symphonies.

Yours very truly,



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April 1st, 1915.

Mitsui &amp; Company,

25 Madison Avenue,

New York City. Attention-Mr. S. Takaki.

Dear Mr. Takaki:

I beg to hand you enclosed  
Bill of Lading covering the one hundred  
fifty (150) gallons of Toluol shipped to  
Charles Pfizer and Company, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Yours very truly,

*D. H. Meadows*

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

Hirst

March 31st. 1915.

The German American Car Co.,  
17 Battery Place,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

We have received your favor of the 30th instant, enclosing duplicate copies of leasing contract covering the six acid cars you are building for Mr. Edison. I return these copies herewith, executed by him. In accordance with our telephone understanding today, and also in accordance with Mr. Edison's conversation with your Mr. Epstein a few days ago, Mr. Edison has signed these contracts on the understanding that you are to provide him with two acid tank cars for temporary use toward the latter end of April, 1915 until the new cars are ready, if they have not been finished and delivered by that time. Will you kindly confirm this understanding when you return one copy of the contract to us.

You will notice that this contract is with Mr. Edison individually and not with the Company.

Yours very truly,

Assistant to Mr. Edison.

*First*

March 31st. 1915.

H. M. Byllesby & Company,  
Continental & Commercial Bank Bldg.,  
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

RE. DRIP OIL.

I am in receipt of your favor of the 29th instant,  
and thank you for your prompt attention.

Let me say in reply that almost every small gas company collects all the oil that settles in the mains and gasometers and sells it. It amounts to about one gallon for every eighty-five thousand (85,000) feet of gas made. Some of it is of no value, but it generally sells at ten (10) cents a gallon. It is saved and put in a tank until enough has accumulated to make a tank carload, and is usually sold at the works. Mr. Insull's Companies save all their drip oil.

Old tank car tanks of six thousand (6,000) gallons capacity can be bought for one hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$168) each.

You had better have your managers send me by Parcel-post or otherwise one quart tin can samples and I will test them. Please instruct them to be sure and mark the same for identification so that I will know where they are from.

Yours very truly,  
*J. H. [Signature]*

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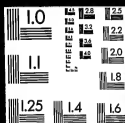


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